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LD161300 [Editorial Report]

Iran

The Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) is placing all its naval and missile units on alert to take "revolutionary steps" in the Persian Gulf, an IRGC spokesman announced in a statement cited by Tehran radio. Guards and other personnel are being dispatched to defend the Gulf against the "plots" of the United States and "reactionary" rulers in the area, he added. IRGC Minister Mohsen Rafiqdust subsequently warned that Iranian forces will have no mercy on U.S. forces in the Gulf, IRNA reported, and he asserted that if the U.S. fleets make any move in preparation for any operations, the IRGC will "destroy" them.

Before leaving Iran, Soviet First Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov said his talks with Iranian leaders on bilateral relations and cooperation had yielded "some positive results," Tehran radio reported. Noting that the two sides had also exchanged views on "the threat posed by the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf," Vorontsov stressed the Soviet view that U.S. armed forces "have no business in the region." The radio also reported that in a meeting with President 'Ali Khamene'i, Vorontsov said the USSR attaches "extraordinary importance" to its relations with Iran. A TASS report on Vorontsov's visit gave only a brief account of his talks with Iranian officials and did not mention the remarks on the Gulf situation attributed to him by Iranian media.

Vorontsov's statement that the USSR has nothing in common with U.S. imperialism "must be proven in practice, otherwise it has no political weight," Tehran radio asserted in a commentary on the Soviet official's visit. The radio criticized the USSR's "extremely incorrect" stands toward Iran, adding that the Russians are now faced with the "big test" of defining their stand in connection with events in the Gulf.

In another diplomatic development, President Khamene'i met the visiting Japanese foreign minister, who conveyed his country's concern over the lack of security for shipping in the Gulf, Tehran radio reported. A KYODO report on the talks disclosed that the Japanese visitor tried in vain to persuade Khamene'i to give an unqualified commitment to the free passage of shipping in the Gulf. Talks between the Japanese minister and his Iranian counterpart dealt with the Gulf war and with bilateral economic issues, including Iran's oil exports to Japan, Tehran radio disclosed.

As for Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi's visit to Turkey, IRNA noted that Musavi held talks with Prime Minister Turgut Ozal and with President Kenan Evren, adding that "informed diplomatic sources" in Ankara believe the meeting with Evren indicates a deep mutual interest in removing existing impediments to the expansion of bilateral relations. The Turkish paper *Cumhuriyet* had earlier published an Iranian Embassy statement denying that Iranian troops have carried out operations inside Turkey, and asserting that such reports were circulated to undermine Musavi's visit. The denial followed Ankara radio reports about the killing of a Turkish citizen by IRGC men hunting Iranian Kurdish rebels inside Turkish territory.

Iraq

Iraqi attacks on shipping in the Gulf war zone are "legitimate" and in conformity with international law, whereas the Iranian attacks are "illegitimate," Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz asserted at a New York press conference reported by INA.

Lebanon

IDF-UNIFIL Incident — Israeli soldiers occupied a UNIFIL position near Marj 'Uyun 15 June but subsequently withdrew after intervention by a senior UNIFIL officer, according to "a source close to UNIFIL" cited by AFP. Israeli military sources confirmed that an "incident" between IDF and UNIFIL troops was resolved after senior officers on both sides intervened and the IDF promised to withdraw from positions near a UNIFIL post, Jerusalem radio noted.

Political Situation — Despite earlier reports of continuing differences among the parties in West Beirut, Amal Movement leader Nabih Birri asserted that "great progress" has been made toward establishing a "National Front," Radio Monte Carlo reported. In other developments following Rashid Karami's assassination, Interior Minister 'Abdallah al-Rasi called on the Lebanese Army to take over areas currently controlled by the Lebanese Forces, according to Beirut radio. Lebanese Forces commander Samir Ja'ja' warned that any attempt to put military pressure on East Beirut will be strongly and effectively confronted, Voice of Lebanon radio noted.

Israel and Syria

A MENA report that Israeli and Syrian officials held secret talks in Switzerland 20 May was denied by an aide of Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir, IDF radio reported. The aide said he regards the report as false and speculative. Citing diplomatic sources in Geneva, MENA said the meeting followed "other recent exchanges presumably aimed at discussing the parameters of the two countries' activities in Lebanon."

In Paris, Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin referred to an Israeli-Syrian "tacit understanding" in the Lebanese arena, *Ha'aretz* disclosed in a 16 June report. Rabin said that Syria is well aware of the limits it should not exceed in Lebanon, adding that signals coming from Damascus denote a Syrian "soberness" in this respect.

Syria-USSR

Economic Talks — CPSU Central Committee Member Konstantin Katushev arrived in Damascus leading the Soviet delegation to the ninth session of the joint cooperation commission, Damascus radio reported. Minister of State for Planning Sabah Baqjaji leads the Syrian side in the talks.

Military Meeting — Defense Minister Mustafa Talas received the first deputy chief of staff of the Soviet army to discuss their

countries' cordial relations and ways to serve the combat capability of the Syrian armed forces, Damascus radio noted.

Egypt

Security Investigations — The Interior Ministry's security service is interrogating several officers of the armed forces accused of plotting to overthrow the government, according to Kuwait's *Al-Watan*. The officers reportedly were tortured to force them to make confessions. Concerning the continuing investigation of a group of Nasirite socialists accused of holding contacts with Syria, the UAE's *Al-Khalij* reported that four of the detainees said they were "savagely tortured."

USSR Visit — People's Assembly Speaker Rif'at al-Mahjub received the delegation led by Supreme Soviet Presidium Deputy Chairman Arnold Ryutel during a 2-day visit, MENA reported. In their talks the two sides expressed support for an international conference on Middle East peace and affirmed their desire to strengthen bilateral parliamentary relations.

Algeria-Libya

Talks in Algiers between the FLN's Mohamed Cherif Messaadia and Libyan Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud produced a "convergence" of viewpoints on the decisive issues of the region, Algiers radio noted. The radio also noted that Algerian President Chadli Bendjedid received Jallud.

Sudan

SUNA cited an *Al-Usbu'* report that the ambassador to Ethiopia was recalled after the Sudanese authorities reviewed documents on the involvement of "some foreign forces" in supporting the rebellion in the south and attacking Jokau. The paper said the documents reveal the Jokau operation plan and the parties involved.

DRA

Rebels downed a transport helicopter carrying 14 people in Balkh Province, Moscow radio reported. The radio gave no casualty figures but noted that the incident closely followed the downing of a passenger plane 11 June.

Preparations for Iraqi-Syrian Summit Detailed

JN120909 Kuwait AL-QABAS in Arabic 10 Jun 87 p 19

[Text] *Al-Qabas* has learned from reliable sources that a historic meeting will be held in Amman in the last week of this month between Iraqi President Saddam Husayn and Syrian President Hafiz al-Asad. This meeting, which will be held openly thanks to the ripe conditions for its convocation, will approve a political agreement between the two countries. It will also approve other draft agreements, such as papers on economic and security problems and an understanding in all sectors and fields.

The two presidents will hold a news conference after the conclusion of their Amman talks. At that time, they will announce the basis of the special and distinctive relations between them. These relations were formed during meetings held in the Jordanian H-4 area in two stages. The first stage was between Khaddam and 'Aziz and the second between 'Aziz and Faruq al-Shar'. These sources have categorically denied any imminent meeting between 'Aziz and Faruq al-Shar'. They said that there has been a mix-up; perhaps the aim was to cover the meeting which took place between the two foreign ministers in the H-4 area last week.

Political sources in Damascus have affirmed that an important political meeting took place last Friday between Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar'. They said that this meeting was meant to follow up discussions held earlier between Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam and Tariq 'Aziz, Iraqi deputy prime minister and foreign minister. This meeting was followed by several meetings on the ministerial and committee level. All these meetings were held at the H-4 base which was prepared for this purpose, beginning with the Saddam-Al-Asad summit, continuing with the Khaddam-'Aziz meeting, and ending with committee meetings and the 'Aziz-Al-Shar' meeting.

All these meetings were arranged following painstaking Jordanian efforts. The Jordanian mediation was supposed to have succeeded 2 years ago when a meeting was arranged between 'Aziz and Khaddam. The meeting, however, could not be held and was canceled at the last moment. At that time, the Syrian and Iraqi sides succeeded in holding several meetings to discuss border security. Some sharp differences pertaining to bilateral relations were tackled.

Jordan, which is mediating between the two countries, believes certain Arab press reports 2 years ago that the views of both sides on their bilateral ties caused a meeting between Khaddam and 'Aziz to fail. The two sides and Jordan agreed that such contacts should be shrouded with complete secrecy. Therefore, King Husayn made many secret visits to Baghdad and Damascus. In order to ensure success, he avoided open meetings. Jordan was able to convene the Iraqi-Syrian summit as predicted and reported by *Al-Qabas*. The two sides met on other occasions to arrange an open meeting late this month.

Al-Qabas has learned that the latest meeting last week between the two foreign ministers centered on the political program. As reported by *Al-Qabas*, both interior ministers have discussed the issue of security and future relations and cooperation. Because this discussion has been held, the political program will be the first item on the summit agenda. Ministerial committees from both nations, including a committee composed of interior ministers, discussed bilateral economic relations.

The most important points of discussion were oil cooperation and supplying Syria with its oil needs, signing a new agreement which would give Syria new privileges in the use of Iraqi oil, and signing an agreement distributing the Euphrates' water between Syria and Iraq and contacting Turkey again to implement a previous agreement on water use. Issues of foreign trade and trade exchange occupied a large part of the discussion in terms of trade agreements, financial facilities, and exchange of expertise. However, the political program is the most important element. It is awaiting the final touches of both countries' leaderships.

Al-Qabas has also learned from reliable sources that the main point of discussion during the Khaddam-'Aziz meetings and later the Al-Shar'-'Aziz meetings centered on the concept of distinguished relations. Both sides are believed to have reached an agreement to practically admit that these relations constitute the basic pillar of political change in both countries' stands toward each other.

From the beginning, Syria was rigid on two points. The first point is that meetings should begin at a summit level between the two presidents directly and without the presence or participation of anyone. This was achieved during the meeting held at the H-4 area on 27 April. The Syrian view is that this meeting would pave the way for an agreement on all secondary issues.

However, Iraq was and still is insisting that the major issue is Syria's stand on the Iraq-Iran war. Iraq believes that its criteria for relations with others is based on their stand on the war. The [second] point is that Syria stipulated unity as a way to cancel its support for Iran and to announce its support for Iraq. It did so also because the relations [between the two countries] stopped after Iraq canceled the unity charter. Therefore, they should start from the point where they stopped.

Iraq has continued to reject this logic and to stress the need for establishing normal relations. Through a difficult dialogue which King Husayn has continued between the two countries, Syria continued to insist on distinguished relations as a minimum level. However, Iraq insisted that relations between Iraq and any other Arab country should be based on that country's stand on the war and that distinguished relations are basically with the states which adopt a positive and a courageous stand in support of Iraq. Syria insisted that distinguished relations between the two countries should be based on a unified strategy to confront dangers.

Jordan has played a prominent role in bringing the two countries' views closer together. This is based on its belief in distinguished relations between the two countries in accordance with the Syrian view that the Arab nation is facing a grave danger from the East and the West, that Iran and Israel pose a serious threat to the Arab nation, that these threats can only be confronted through a unified Arab stand, that an Iraq-Syria meeting will be the strong pillar of this stand, and that without this the dangers from the East and the West will continue to threaten Arab existence.

Based on this Jordanian theory, Iraqi Foreign Minister Tariq 'Aziz and Syrian Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' agreed during their recent meeting to lay the bases for distinguished relations between the two countries in accordance with their prominent role in the Arab East. This constitutes a major base for achieving effective Arab solidarity, whether to confront settlement plans or the dangers of war.

The political plan also includes a firm Arab stand on a political settlement in the region. The settlement emphasizes reaching a just and comprehensive solution. It opposes any separate or capitulatory plans and direct negotiations. The plan also stresses the need to work for ending the Gulf war and to reactivate the bases of Arab solidarity in accordance with pan-Arab principles which were confirmed during the Baghdad 1978 summit.

Arab Economy Unity Council Meets 13 Jun

Ministers Begin Meetings

JN140707 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 13 Jun 87

[Text] The meetings of the 47th session of the Ministerial Council of the Arab Economic Unity Council began in Amman today. Jordanian Trade and Industry Minister Dr Raja'i al- Mu'ashshir delivered a speech at the opening session. In his speech, he welcomed the Arab delegations and expressed his hope that the conferees would achieve results that will serve the march of Arab economic unity.

Hisham Hasan Tawfiq, Iraqi finance minister and chairman of the previous session, spoke about the difficulties impeding the march of Arab economic unity. He called for a reconsideration of the organizational structure of the Arab Economic Unity Council and for promoting performance in it. He thanked His Majesty King Husayn, the Jordanian Government, and the Jordanian people for hosting and continuously supporting the Arab Economic Unity Council.

Mahdi al-'Ubaydi, secretary general of the Arab Economic Unity Council, submitted a report on the council's activities during the previous session.

Participants in the session will discuss, over 2 days, a number of subjects relating to joint Arab economic action. They will also review aspects of the Arab economic crisis and ways of facing the negative effects of this crisis.

Meetings End 14 Jun

JN141352 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] At the end of its meetings in Amman today, the Ministerial Council of the Arab Economic Unity Council [AEUC] stressed the importance of the pioneering role being played by the AEUC in consolidating Arab economic relations and deepening the integration policies in the march of joint Arab action. The Council also emphasized the need required by current circumstances to support the Council's work. It called on the Arab member states to provide the necessary capabilities and facilities to achieve the objectives of the Arab economic unity agreement and the joint Arab market's decision.

The Ministerial Council of the AEUC praised the great accomplishments realized by the AEUC in past years and lauded the work done to demonstrate these accomplishments in a way that fulfillsthe Arab nation's aspirations for progress and prosperity. The Council passed a number of important, basic resolutions dealing with issues linked to joint Arab economic action and the role of the AEUC. Foremost among these resolutions is one concerning the tax coordination program among the AEUC member states. It also calls on the General Secretariat to complete the various dimensions of this project. The Council decided to hold its next session in Amman on 6 December. It will focus on promoting trade exchanges and implementing the joint Arab market's decision and the studies on the integrated program for boosting trade exchanges.

PLO Envoy Comments on Relations With Egypt

JN151521 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
15 Jun 87 p 1

[Text] Cairo — Al-Tayyib 'Abd al-Rahim, PLO representative in Cairo, told *Al-Ittihad* before leaving Egypt for Belgrade to assume his new post that it is too early to expect Egypt to revise its stand on the closure of PLO offices. He said that the prevailing wisdom dictates efforts to calm the situation. He also noted that there are several contacts underway with Cairo. 'Abd al-Rahim asserted that Egypt has not replied to the Palestinian leadership's desire for a dialogue with it through a committee headed by Yasir 'Arafat, although an official Palestinian request has been made in this regard. He said that the Egyptian stand with regard to Palestinian constants — the right to self-determination, the establishment of a Palestinian state, and the PLO as the sole, legitimate representative — remains unchanged.

'Abd al-Rahim noted that the Palestinian leadership admires and appreciates the regime of President Mubarak in Egypt. He said: We wish to affirm to the brothers in Egypt that the PNC resolution was intended to strengthen and not sever relations. The PLO will not spare any effort in seeking the mediation of brothers and friends to explain its position.

He noted that since taking office, President Mubarak has made policy decisions which essentially constitute a change in the Camp David policy.

3 Nations Deny Hawatimah Mediation Request

JN151654 Cairo UKTUBAR in Arabic 14 Jun 87 p 13

[Text] During his recent tour of Eastern Europe, DFLP Secretary General Nayif Hawatimah asked the CSSR, Romania, and the GDR to mediate with Syria to allow him to return and reside in Damascus. *Uktubar* has learned that the three countries told him that they are not in a position to undertake such mediation.

Agenda for 'Arafat Meetings in Baghdad Detailed

LD142256 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic
1702 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] Brother Leader Abu 'Ammar [Yasir 'Arafat], chairman of the PLO Executive Committee and commander in chief of the Palestinian revolution forces, held a series of talks in Baghdad with a number of senior Iraqi officials.

According to a responsible Palestinian source, these talks included the latest developments with regard to Palestinian, Arab and international political issues. He also discussed developments in the Iraq-Iran war in light of the international efforts and moves being made to put an end to this conflict in a peaceful way.

The responsible Palestinian source also pointed out that the brother leader Abu 'Ammar will preside over the PLO Executive Committee meetings in Baghdad tomorrow. The source stated that the PLO Executive Committee will discuss a number of issues concerning the situation of our Palestinian people in the Palestinian camps in Lebanon in light of the escalated Zionist aggression against these camps and the continuing siege by Birri's gangs. It will also review the escalation in their aggression and provocations against the sons of our Palestinian people. In addition, the Executive Committee will discuss ways to deal with the Palestinian situation in Lebanon in general in the wake of the recent resolution adopted by the Palestinian parliament. The resolution abrogates the Cairo Agreement signed between the PLO and the Lebanese Government in 1969. This agreement had defined the terms of the Palestinian military, political, and social presence in Lebanon.

The Executive Committee meetings will begin tomorrow, Monday [15 June]. According to the same source, a large part of the agenda forthese PLO Executive Committee meetings will be taken up with the following: the situation within occupied Palestine and the sufferings of our Palestinian people under Zionist terrorism, racist campaigns, criminal aggression, and the continuous siege; the accompanying detention campaigns which have affected hundreds of the sons of our people; and the closure of all Palestinian educational institutions within the occupied homeland.

Reportage on Official Jallud Visit Continues

Makes Arrival Statement

LD150945 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0710 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Excerpts] Algiers, 15 Jun (JANA) — Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud arrived at Houari Boumediene Airport yesterday evening accompanied by a delegation which includes members of the Secretariate of the General People's Congress, the secretary and members of the General People's Committee, and a number of experts and specialists.

Staff Maj Jallud and his accompanying delegation are scheduled to hold expanded meetings with officials in Algeria. [passage omitted]

Upon his arrival at Houari Boumediene Airport, Staff Maj 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud made the following statement: "The meeting between the Great September Revolution and the November Revolution is a compulsory one and one of conscience. These meetings have become a noble tradition between the two revolutions and possess a particular importance concerning the role the two revolutions play on a pan-Arab, African, and international level. They are also important in view of the danger which threatens the Arab nation."

Staff Maj Jallud added that this visit to Algeria is part of the meetings agreed upon by the brother leader and President Chadli Bendjedid. Agreement has been reached on a unionist program, one with defined goals and objectives. A process of integration is also underway that will not only benefit Libya and Algeria but our Arab nation, our causes, and the cause of the revolution of which we are part.

We in the Great Jamahiriyah, Staff Maj Jallud affirmed, attach great importance to this meeting and hope and expect that a unionist program will be consolidated. This in turn will generate a historic action; our nation, our masses, the Palestinian people, and our sacred causes await historic action between the two revolutions. We have confidence in this revolution and in Algeria, whose head is President Chadli Bendjedid.

Staff Maj Jallud added that "we have confidence in the cadres of the Algerian FLN and the Algerian Arab masses, which were the fuel of Algeria's liberation revolution. Today they are called upon to play a historic role in which this revolution and Algeria's Arab masses will join hands with the Great September Revolution and the Great Jamahiriyah's masses and present a united form to our nation. This will constitute the beginning of this nation's revival, despite the fact that this nation is now being subjected to a real danger — the danger of disintegration — from within, as well as sectarian and external threats. In the past we feared for our culture and identity; however, now our material existence has become threatened. Proceeding from this premise, we are happy to see our brothers in Algeria providing us with this opportunity to visit their country. We will be even happier when we are able to consolidate an action to achieve unity that entails a satisfactory reply to all questions concerning our Arab and Maghreb realities."

Staff Maj Jallud pointed out that "those who have provided us with this opportunity are being honored with a historic task. It is inevitable that the coming generations will remember all the Libyan Arab and Algerian cadres who built this unionist action." He reaffirmed that our future lies in unity to preserve the Arab nation.

Staff Maj 'Abd al-Salam Ahmad Jallud concluded his statement by saying that "we are happy to be in Algeria at this time; we feel as though we are in the Great Jamahiriyah. We are one nation and from one homeland; we are one people — and this is an expression of our unyielding will."

Jallud, Messaadia Begin Talks

LD151246 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] Algerian-Libyan political talks began this morning in Algiers at the al-Mithaq residence under the chairmanship of Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Political Bureau and head of the Central Committee permanent secretariat. Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Ahmed Jallud, member of the Arab Libyan Jamahiriyah Revolution Command, is leading the Libyan representation to the talks.

Discussion will focus on the activities of political, economic, legislative, cultural, and Islamic organs, and will complement the steps taken by the two countries for cooperation and rapprochement. The talks will also give substance to the results achieved at the recent meetings between officials from the two countries, particularly President Chadli Bendjedid and Colonel Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi.

Bilateral Relations Discussed

LD152251 Algiers Domestic Service in French 2200 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] Algerian-Libyan political talks began in Algiers this morning between delegations led by Mohamed Cherif Messaadia and 'Abd al-Salam Jallud. Several subjects were discussed in the context of strengthening bilateral relations.

The two parties noted with satisfaction the convergence of their views with regard to the region's decisive issues. After an exhaustive examination of various factors, the two sides reiteratedtheir commitment to achieve a peoples' Maghreb and to give concrete form to the programs provided for in various fields.

President Receives Delegation

LD160257 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic 2300 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] President Chadli Bendjedid, leader of the Republic and secretary general of the FLN party, received Staff Major 'Abd al-Salam Jallud, member of the Libyan Revolutionary Com-

mand, and his accompanying delegation at his office yesterday as part of their official visit to Algeria.

Algeria's representatives included Brother Mohamed Cherif Messaadia, member of the Politburo and head of the FLN party's Central Committee permanent secretariat, and Abdelhamid Brahimi, alternate member of the Political Bureau and prime minister.

'Umar al-Muntasir also attended for the Libyan side.

Another working session was held by the Algerian-Libyan executive bodies at the El-Methaq residence under the chairmanship of Abdelhamid Brahimi, alternate member of the Political Bureau and prime minister, and attended by 'Umar al-Muntasir, secretary of the General People's Committee.

The session provided an opportunity to assess all activities of the Algerian-Libyan ministerial committee, chaired by Brother Faysal Boudraa and Mr Fawzi al-Shakshuki.

The two sides confirmed their approval of the contents of the agreements reached, as well as the clauses contained in the minutes which culminated the preliminary proceedings.

Both parties also approved all other cooperation projects, as well as joint economic achievements aimed at consolidating existing bilateral relations.

New Interior Minister, Other Appointments Noted

LD132002 Algiers Domestic Service in French 1830 GMT 13 Jun 87

[Text] The president of the Republic today appointed Mr El Hadi Khdiri as minister of interior, replacing Mr Hadj Yala. Mr (Abdelmadjid Bouzbid) was appointed director general of the Surete Nationale [Security Police], replacing Mr El Hadi. The president also made new appointments in the National People's Army. Ourcorrespondent Mouloud Belabdi has sent us the following report:

These appointments are as follows: General Nezzar Khaled, appointed as deputy commander of land forces and the National People's Army chief of staff; General Guenaizia Abdelmalek — commander of the Air Force and the National People's Army deputy chief of staff; General Abderrahim Kamel — commander of naval forces and National People's Army deputy chief of staff; General (Ghael Benabbas) — commander of Gendarmerie Nationale [police], replacing General Hachichi Zine el Abidine, who was given another position; General El Hachemi Hadjres — Army inspector general; Colonel (Zeroual Lamine) — commander of the Fifth Military Region; Colonel Betchine Mohamed — commander of the Third Military Region; Colonel Trach Mahiedine — commander of the Fourth Military Region; Colonel (Deradji Tayeb) — commander of the Cherchel Military Academy; and Colonel Cherif Abdelmadjid — delegate to military projects and manufactures, replacing General Khelel Habib, who has been given other responsibilities.

Further Reportage on Soviet Delegation's Visit

Ryuytel Meets With Al-Mahjub

NC151704 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1550 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] Cairo, 15 Jun (MENA) — People's Assembly Speaker Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub today received at his office Arnold Ryuytel, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, and his accompanying delegation, who are currently on a tour of the Middle East. The meeting was also attended by Dr Muhammad 'Abdallah, chairman of the People's Assembly Foreign Relations Committee, and the Soviet ambassador in Cairo.

During the meeting, the head of the Soviet delegation stressed his country's eagerness to convene an international peace conference, noting that the Soviet Union supports a peaceful solution and disarmament and rejects military confrontations in the region. Ryuytel expressed concern about developments in the Gulf, which could lead to foreign intervention and expand the scope of the war. The head of the Soviet delegation noted that his country supports Egypt and President Husni Mubarak's efforts to hold an international peace conference, restore the Palestinian people's legitimate rights, and assure their representation at this conference, along with all other parties concerned.

Dr Rif'at al-Mahjub spoke during the meeting and noted that Egypt supports the Soviet Union's efforts toward disarmament and promoting international peace and appreciates the Soviet position on the Middle East. Dr al-Mahjub underlined Egypt's eagerness to see the Soviets attend the international peace conference. Dr al-Mahjub, on Egypt's behalf, urged the Soviet Union to exert efforts for the convocation of this conference, which is in the interest of all concerned. He asked the Soviet Union to assume its responsibility within the UN Security Council to halt the war in the Gulf.

At the end of the meeting, the People's Assembly speaker affirmed that Egypt is looking forward to promoting its relations with the Soviet Union and strengthening bilateral parliamentary relations, which help to reconcile positions. He noted that such parliamentary cooperation could have a great impact on the promotion of trade, economic, and social relations between the two countries.

Holds News Conference

NC152130 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2050 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] Cairo, 15 Jun (MENA) — Arnold Ryuytel, deputy chairman of the Supreme Soviet Presidium, stated that his current visit to Egypt is aimed at explaining the Soviet Union's domestic and external policies and promoting understanding between his country and the Arab nations on his tour, including Egypt.

At a news conference this evening, the Soviet official expressed his country's support for an international conference with the participation of all parties concerned, including the PLO. He added that a committee should be formed to prepare for such a conference. He emphasized that the United Nations must play an active, effective role in this conference.

Ryuytel noted the Soviet stand on solving the Middle East problem, adding that this solution can be attained through ensuring Israel's withdrawal from the occupied Arab territories and support for the Palestinian people's legitimate rights.

Touching on Soviet-Israeli relations, the Soviet official reiterated that there have been no changes in relations with Tel Aviv. He said that exchanges with Israel fall within the framework of efforts to solve the Middle East problem.

The Soviet official also addressed the Soviet position on protection of international navigation in the Persian Gulf. He said: We believe that there should be free navigation, and we [word indistinct] effective measures in this regard within the framework of the United Nations and the Security Council.

He added: We oppose continuation of the unjustifiable Iraq-Iran war. We also oppose the establishment of military bases and the expansion of the war.

On Soviet-Kuwaiti relations, Ryuytel said that these are purely trade relations based on transporting Kuwaiti oil.

Ryuytel arrived in Cairo last night at the head of a delegation ona 2-day visit. Their tour also includes Algeria, Libya, Morocco, and Syria.

Ryuytel Comments on Talks

NC161339 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 16 Jun 87

[Text] President Muhammad Husni Mubarak received a delegation of representatives from the Supreme Soviet, who are currently on a visit to Cairo, this morning. The delegation is led by Arnold Ryuytel, deputy chairman of the USSR Supreme Soviet Presidium and chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet of the Estonian Soviet Socialist Republic. The meeting was also attended by Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, and the Soviet ambassador in Cairo.

After the meeting, Arnold Ryuytel said that he had discussed with the president bilateral cooperation in economic, cultural, and technical fields, as well as regional and international political issues. He stated that the two sides hold identical views on international issues. However, he described regional issues as difficult, saying that joint efforts are being made to resolve the area's problems.

Mubarak Meets Ugandan President During Stopover

NC151413 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1230 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Excerpt] Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni and his wife arrived at Cairo Airport this afternoon from Khartoum for a visit of a few hours enroute to Yugoslavia. The Ugandan president and his accompanying delegation were received at the airport by President Husni Mubarak and Mrs Mubarak; Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi; Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister

and foreign minister; Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; Irrigation Minister Eng 'Isam Radi; the Ugandan ambassador in Cairo; and a number of the Ugandan Embassy staff.

President Mubarak accompanied the Ugandan guest to the airport lounge, where they held a round of talks. President Mubarak and his wife also hosted a luncheon for the Ugandan guest and his wife. [passage omitted]

Uganda's Museveni Departs

NC151539 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] Ugandan President Yoweri Museveni, Mrs Museveni, and their accompanying delegation left Cairo at 1500 today on their way to Yugoslavia. They had stopped at Cairo Airport for a few hours for talks with President Muhammad Husni Mubarak. The Ugandan president was seen off at the airport by President and Mrs Mubarak; Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi; Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; Irrigation Minister Dr 'Isam Radi; and the Ugandan ambassador in Cairo.

In a predeparture statement, Ugandan President Museveni said that his talks with President Mubarak had been a continuation of previous discussions on various issues of mutual interest. Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi noted that the talks had dealt with bilateral cooperation and coordination for the upcoming African summit scheduled to be held in Addis Ababa. He described relations between the two countries as strong, noting that both share one water source. He also referred to the visit to Cairo last week by the Ugandan water resources minister for talks on concluding a barter deal and establishing a farm in Uganda using Egyptian expertise.

Dr Butrus Ghali stated that there are a number of joint agricultural, industrial, and economic projects and that a group of Egyptian experts in these fields will leave for Uganda next week to promote economic and trade relations.

Norwegian Defense Minister Arrival, Comment Noted

NC160601 Cairo MENA in Arabic 2310 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] Cairo, 15 Jun (MENA) — Norwegian Defense Minister Johan Jorgen Holst emphasized the need for convening an international Middle East peace conference. He said that this conference represents the sole chance for achieving a just peace in the area. The Norwegian minister stressed the importance of Egypt's role in this conference, describing it as essential, and affirmed that all parties concerned with the Middle East conflict must participate.

In remarks to the media upon his arrival in Cairo tonight, the Norwegian defense minister said that it is up to the participants to decide who should speak on behalf of the Palestinians in the conference. He noted that his visit to Egypt is part of a tour of the region, which has already taken him to Syria, Lebanon, and Israel. His purpose is to acquaint himself with the political situation in the area.

During his 4-day visit to Cairo, the Norwegian minister will meet with Dr 'Ismat 'Abd al-Majid, deputy prime minister and foreign minister; Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs; and Lieutenant General Ibrahim 'Abd al-Ghafur al-'Urabi, the chief of staff. He will also visit the peace-keeping forces in Sinai.

Prosecutors Continue Interrogation of Nasirites

JN151451 Al-Shariqah AL-KHALIJ in Arabic 14 Jun 87 p 1

[Text] The Egyptian public prosecution department continued its interrogation of some Nasirites yesterday who have been accused of forming a Nasirite group, holding contacts with Syria, and planning to blow up Western institutions in Cairo. Among those arrested are lawyer Yasir 'Abd al-Jawad, lawyer Muhammad 'Awad al-Qamari, Dr Salah al-Dusuqi, who is a professor at the American University, and a Sudanese citizen, who is a member of the Sudanese Socialist Party Political Bureau. Those arrested denied all charges brought against them and said that they were savagely tortured. The public prosecution department found that they had been tortured and referred them to the forensic medicine department.

AL-AHRAR Advocates Dismissal of Interior Minister

PM151249 Cairo AL-AHRAR in Arabic 1 Jun 87 p 10

[Article by Shaykh Salah Abu Isma'il: "Expel This Bloodthirsty Minister"]

[Excerpts] Murder is an abominable crime and, from the religious viewpoint, a great sin since God Almighty says: If anyone kills a person — unless it be for murder or for spreading mischief in the land — it would be as if he killed the whole people. And if anyone saved a life, it would be as if he saved the life of the whole people [Koranic verse]. [passage omitted]

It might prove difficult or impossible to identify the killer. So what can be done?

1. Refrain from fabricating charges against innocent people because God Almighty says: But if anyone earns a fault or a sin and throws it onto one that is innocent, he carries (on himself) both a falsehood and flagrant sin [Koranic verse].

2. Avoid suspicion that is not based on evidence since God Almighty says: O ye who believe, avoid suspicion as much as possible for suspicion in some cases is a sin. And spy not on each other nor speak ill of others behind their backs [Koranic verse]

3. Respect the defendant and his right to innocence until he is proven guilty. And before he is proven guilty he should not be forced, by beatings and torture, to confess.

4. Avoid repeating the same errors with regard to accusing innocent people when justice has cleared them and saved them from execution! O yes, I swear by God, from execution, despite

the fact that they were innocent! The case of the Islamic Jihad organization was tried by the High State Security Court under the chairmanship of Counselor 'Abd al-Ghaffar Muhammad and 192 defendants were acquitted although the High State Security Prosecution had previously demanded their execution while they were innocent!

The Interior Ministry should not abuse the emergency law, which has already been abused often. Proof of this is that the Administrative Judiciary Court has ruled in favor of hundreds of complaints that the emergency law was not properly applied and has stressed the need to release the innocent victims of the Interior Ministry, which is unjustly and forcibly seeking protection under such laws.

Kennedy, the former U.S. president, was assassinated, but emergency laws were not declared in the United States. Bullets were fired at Reagan, the current U.S. President, but a state of emergency was not declared.

Long before that, 'Umar Ibn al-Khattab, 'Uthman Ibn 'Affan, and 'Ali Ibn Abu Talib were all murdered, although they were orthodox caliphs who were promised heaven, but a state of emergency was not declared. Major General Zaki Badr, the present Egyptian interior minister by whom Egypt is afflicted, insists on proving his outstanding abilities to stir up the anger of the downtrodden masses and the fury of stricken families while ignoring the saying: If you are in charge of people, seek their approval, for their revolt can be acute! The wild animal lies in readiness to leap from the cage, so how about rational creatures?

I have learned that some colleagues among the members of the People's Assembly went to see Zaki Badr in his office at the Interior Ministry to ask him for justice and kindness for the innocent people and demand their release. They reminded him of the sacredness of the blood spilt from the victims of police bullets in Tanta prison, but he in fact blamed the policemen for their contentment with killing a few innocent victims and called for suppression that could have claimed at least 100 lives among those oppressed people!

Is it in the interest of President Husni Mubarak or Dr 'Atif Sidqi's government or maybe in the interest of this era, during which the NDP enjoys a decisionmaking majority, to let this bloodthirsty minister continue to be in charge of the Interior Ministry?

What is required is firmness without violence and leniency without weakness. But to undervalue blood and insist on destroying lives, terrifying peaceful people, and spreading terror and fear to this extent, in addition to the high cost of living and the low incomes that evaporate due to the weakness of the Egyptian pound, and the people's inability to face worsening problems — the result of all this, Mr Pharaonic [tyrant] Minister, is what the poet says: When the people's revolution erupts, the crown becomes a feather in the air.

Mr Bloodthirsty Minister, I shall hold you responsible for all your gross errors and violations of the emergency law by questioning you in the People's Assembly and by discussing Egypt's security during your pitch-black, oppressive era. If the majority established justice and agreed with me on your expulsion, then this would be the safety valve for a society afflicted by someone like you. But if the majority decided to protect you from questioning, the people's punishment will be severe and punishment on the day of judgment will be much more severe and long-lasting. [passage omitted]. Advice would not work with someone like Zaki Badr since we have tried advising him for long hours in his office. Therefore it would be good for him and for this era if he was removed or if he resigned. I have fulfilled the mission, O God be my witness.

Formation of New Political Party Planned

JN151612 Kuwait AL-WATAN in Arabic 14 Jun 87 p 15

[Text] Preparations are under way in Cairo for the formation of a new political party that will include a group of Egyptian intellectuals who call themselves "The National Left" [Al-Yasar al-Watani]. The party includes many well-known journalists who are allowed to write for government newspapers and who have friendly relations with the establishment in Egypt. During the recent People's Assembly elections, the group — accustomed to calling itself "The National Left" — tried to put certain names on the NDP ticket. However, their attempt failed in the face of pressure from NDP traditionalists. They succeeded in including only a very small number of names on the NDP ticket, the most important being Yahya al-Jamal, former NPUG assistant secretary. Among the names mentioned as leaders of the new party are journalists Salah Hafiz and 'Abd al-Sattar al-Tawilah.

Energy Cooperation Protocol Signed With Zaire

NC151437 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1350 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] Cairo, 15 Jun (MENA) — Egypt and Zaire this morning signed a protocol for technical cooperation in the field of electricity and nonconventional sources of energy. Eng Mahir Abazah, minister of electricity and energy, signed the agreement for Egypt, and Ileo Itambala, state commissioner for mines and energy, signed on behalf of Zaire.

In a statement after the ceremony, Eng Abazah said that the protocol provides for the exchange of data and technical research results on new and renewable sources of energy, the formation of a committee to study linking Egyptian and Zairian electrical grids and other grids in the Nile Basin countries, and cooperation and exchange of expertise in the field of electricity generation from hydraulic plants. He added that the cornerstone for Egyptian-Zairian cooperation has been laid by President Husni Mubarak and President Mobutu Sese Seko.

The Zairian state commissioner left Cairo today for Brussels, beginning a tour that will take him to a number of European states. He arrived in Cairo for his official visit on 8 June and was received by President Husni Mubarak, Prime Minister Dr 'Atif Sidqi, and Dr Butrus Ghali, minister of state for foreign affairs.

Petroleum Minister on Oil Industry, Consumption

JN130751 Cairo AL-AKHBAR in Arabic 9 Jun 87 p 4

[Majdi Najib dispatch]

[Text] Petroleum Minister 'Abd al-Hadi Qandil announced that Egypt's oil reserves are better today than they were in the past. He added that oil reserves will be sufficient for local consumption for more than 10 years. I will be worried if I do not make consumption for the next 20 years available, he said, adding: There have been 78 new oil discoveries, and 41 of them have already started producing. He continued: Through the policy of saving energy we were able to reduce local consumption of oil by 100,000 tons in 1986 from the total 1985 consumption. However, household consumption, which absorbs 15 percent of production, is still increasing. Our natural gas production in the past 2 years increased from 2 to 5 million tons. We also provided 650,000 tons of gas for household consumption. Our production of gasoline and kerosene has not increased. This was stated during the expanded meeting of the NDP's Industry and Energy Committee under the chairmanship of Eng Fu'ad Abu Zaghlah on 7 June. The meeting was attended by Industry Minister Eng Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab, a number of officials from the Industry, Petroleum, Electricity, and War Production Ministries and scientific institutions, university professors, People's Assembly and Consultative Council members, industrialists, and investors.

The petroleum minister addressed the Industry and Energy Committee,saying: In the past, natural gas did not have any value and was burned. The agreements with foreign partners did not provide for profits from the natural gas, which was not priced. New petroleum agreeemnts have been reached and they will be presented to the People's Assembly next week. Accordingly, we will be allowed to profit from the natural gas, and the foreign partner will be compensated from a percentage of oil production.

The petroleum minister added: The electricity sector will not be allowed to depend on the oil sector supplying it with services. The new electrical power stations must be constructed near oil production sites to save on pipes and maintenance. The coal-operated electric power stations are not profitable now in addition to the high cost of operating them. One such station needs 2 million tons each year while our annual production is 300,000 tons. This is in addition to the fact that one station needs 7 years to be established.

Industry Minister Eng Muhammad 'Abd al-Wahhab announced that according to the Policy Committee's decision 35 percent of the new industries will depend on local production. He added that the electricity sector should depend on local production in establishing new stations and should search for cheaper methods to produce electric power. He added: Studies have shown that we can reduce energy consumption in Egypt by 20 percent. We can use this percentage to increase local production. He affirmed that as of now we must depend on local industries in all new production projects.

Eng Fu'ad Abu Zaghlah said: A committee will be formed from members of the NDP Indstry Committee and a number of officials from the Industry, Petroleum, Electricity, and War Production ministries to discuss the idea of using local electric power stations.

Loan Agreement With Kuwaiti Development Fund

NC112028 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1400 GMT 11 Jun 87

[Text] Cairo, 11 Jun (MENA) — Egypt and the Kuwaiti Development Fund signed on agreement in Cairo today by which the fund will extend a 7 million Kuwaiti dinar loan to Egypt to help finance a project to protect the Rosetta coast from erosion.

According to the agreement, signed by Dr Kamal al-Janzuri, deputy prime minister and minister of planning and international cooperation, and Kuwaiti Development Fund Chairman Badr al-Humaydi, the loan will be repaid over 20 years at an annual interest rate of 3.5 percent.

Midhat 'Abd al-'Aziz, first under secretary at the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation, has stated that the loan will cover approximately 54 percent of the estimated 13.1 million Kuwaiti dinar cost of the project to protect the Rosetta coast from erosion.

He explained that the project seeks to protect the Rosetta coast from erosion, which will help to reclaim 6,250 feddans of fallow land and to cultivate 4,800 more feddans of currently arable land. These benefits are in addition to the construction of fish farms over an area comprising 1,300 feddans and tourist facilities covering an area of 10,000 square meters.

The project will include the construction of a 5-km wall to protect the coast and will ensure the supply of the required maritime survey equipment to aid the coast protection project.

Ethiopia Reportedly Massing Forces on Border

JN161124 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1040 GMT 16 Jun 87

[Text] Khartoum, 16 Jun (SUNA) — The independent daily newspaper *Al-Ayyam* cites reports from the city of Al-Qadarif in eastern Sudan which state that the Ethiopian Government has begun massing large forces on its western border with Sudan. A great deal of food and munition supplies have also reportedly been sent to these forces.

The paper adds that observers fear Ethiopia will strike at the Eritrean refugee camps in Sudan as part of a drive against the Eritrean liberation movement.

Prime Minister on Brotherhood Charter With Egypt

JN141822 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1717 GMT 14 June 87

[Text] Khartoum, 14 Jun (SUNA) — Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has reiterated the cancellation of Sudan's joint defense agreement with Egypt. Quoted in press statements here today, the prime minister said that all agreements concluded with Egypt during the regime of the butcher Numayri are now null and void, following the conclusion of the brotherhood charter signed several months ago. The charter began a new page in bilateral relations defining cooperation, Al-Mahdi stated.

He made it clear that details of the comprehensive cooperation will be worked out when Egypt's Prime Minister 'Atif Sidqi visits Sudan. Al-Mahdi said that an invitation will be extended to Sidqi soon after the 1987-88 state budget is approved.

Radio SPLA Announces Capture of Sopo District

EA131513 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 13 Jun 87

[Excerpts] Sopo, a small district between Wau and Raga, has fallen to the SPLA forces of Rajjaf Battalion under the overall command of Captain (George Kwach). The SPLA task force of Rajaf took control of Sopo at 0800 on Sunday, 31 May 1987, after crushing enemy resistance that had been offered by the combined forces of policemen and militia.

A total of 54 enemy policemen and militia were killed in the engagement. Our correspondent says that at least 60 bicycles that the enemy had been using to facilitate his movement between Wau and Raga were all seized intact. Thirty shotguns and G-3 rifles were also captured. [passage omitted]

The capture of Sopo was immediately followed by an intensive enlightenment campaign among the residents of the area, the aim of which was to correct the distorted image of the SPLM-SPLA given to them by the enemies of the movement. [passage omitted]

56 More Soldiers Said Killed

EA152109 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Excerpts] An SPLA force comprising units from Eagle and Nile Battalions clashed on (3) June 1987 with elements of Al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's militia forces in northern Bahr al-Ghazal, killing 26 militiamen. The fighting broke out after a militia force made an incursion into (Gok) area near (Laker) close to Malwal Station with the aim of harassing the civilian population currently engaged in cultivation. [passage omitted]

Thirty enemy soldiers were killed on 1 June 1987 8 km away from Abyei town along Muqlad-Abyei Road when the lorry vehicle on which they were traveling detonated a landmine. Many others were also injured as a result of the blast which completely destroyed the lorry, which had a registration No 8045-6H. [passage omitted]

Al-Mirghani, Armed Forces Chief on Upper Nile

JN141759 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1717 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] Khartoum, 14 June (SUNA) — Ahmad 'Ali al-Mirghani, chairman of the State Council, has saluted the people's Armed Forces for their sacrifices on behalf of Sudan's citizens and territorial integrity. This praise came during a telephone conversation which Al-Mirghani held from Milan [as received] with Major General Fawzi Ahmad, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, to enquire about the Armed Forces and the current situation in the Upper Nile Province.

The commander in chief reassured the State Council chairman about the situation, emphasizing that it has been brought completely under control and that the Armed Forces now have the Upper Nile Province under control. Gen Ahmad said that the heroic people's forces are quite capable of confronting all foreign aggression, that they will not be lax in defending every inch of Sudan's territory, and that they will not spare themselves in defending the nation's honor.

Gen Ahmad wished the State Council chairman a speedy recovery and a safe return home from the recuperation trip which he began approximately 2 weeks ago.

Communique No 2,709 Details Combat 14-15 Jun

JN151650 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Communique No 2,709 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 15 June 1987]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. With our men's courage, their faithfulness to their land and history, andtheir belief in the sanctity of their people, our victorious forces are continuing their combat activities, inflicting further losses on the aggressors, the slaves of Zionism. A roundup of activities for last night and today follows:

1. With the aim of inflicting further destruction and death on enemy units and soldiers, our heroic Air Force carried out 40 combat missions and inflicted significant losses on the aggressors. Our aircraft returned safely to base, praise be to God.

2. Our bold helicopter gunships carried out a series of successful raids against enemy positions, troop concentrations, and weapon emplacements, inflicting new losses on the enemy in over 21 combat missions. Our helicopter gunships returned safely to base, thanks to God's care and protection.

3. One of our units in the II Army Corps central sector spotted a group of 15 scoundrels, pounded the group with weapon fire, and killed 10 of the enemy; the remaining 5 fled. Elsewhere in this sector, our units pounded an enemy patrol, killing most of the patrol's soldiers and forcing the remainder to flee. Six infantry positions and two observation posts were also destroyed, while an ammunition dump was detonated in other parts of the same sector.

4. Units of our brave formations in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah pounded enemy positions, a group of scoundrels from these positions, and their engineering works. Our units caused enemy losses in both personnel and equipment. They also destroyed seven infantry positions, killing or wounding their occupants; they destroyed a DSHK machinegun; blew up a number of ammunition dumps; and halted enemy engineering work.

5. In the VII Army Corps sector, an enemy machinegun was destroyed and its crew killed, an ammunition dump was blown up, and a number of enemy positions were set ablaze.

6. Eight soldiers were pounded, killing or wounding a number of them, and a firing post was destroyed in the IV Army Corps sector east of Maysan.

7. Yesterday evening the tyrant Khomeyniite clique shelled residential areas in the town of Al-Qurnah with long-range artillery. The enemy shelling damaged houses and property of civilians.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 15 June 1987

Information Minister Views Gulf War, Economy

JN151735 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1530 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] Baghdad, 15 Jun (INA) — Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information, has asserted that the United Nations is the natural and most appropriate place to settle the Iraq-Iran conflict through negotiations. During a meeting today with international journalists who are based at the United Nations, the minister held Iranian officials responsible for the grave material and human losses and the agonies which this war has brought to both sides. The minister reviewed the historical and general circumstances preceding the war since Khomeyni's departure from Iraq. He also reviewed the declared statements made against Iraq and its government and Iran's practical entry into war against Iraq before 4 September 1980. This prompted Iraq to regain its occupied territory, which was being used by the Iranians for attacks against it.

Latif Nusayyif Jasim pointed to Iraq's approval of peace efforts and its willingness since the war's beginning to settle the conflict and withdraw to international borders. He also cited Iraq's response to a Security Council call on 28 September 1980 for an end to the war, as well as Iraq's June 1982 withdrawal of its forces from all Iranian territory. Since this withdrawal, he said, Iran has launched more than 30 major attacks against Iraq. The latest of these assaults was the attack launched under the slogan of the year of decisiveness, which sought to take control of Basra by penetrating the Al-Asmak Lake. There was an earlier attack in another area; the battle which occurred there is called the Great Day Battle. During the fierce fighting which raged and continued for approximately 3 months, Iranian losses were very heavy. The year of decisiveness ended, but the Iranians did not obtain any results apart from a small amount of territory east of Basra.

The minister of culture and information asserted that the Iraqi people's morale is high. He said that the Iraqi economy, which Iran sought to exhaust, has overcome the strain and is now improving due to increased oil exports. He touched on the situation in the Arab Gulf region and affirmed Iraq's determination to prevent Iran from exploiting this waterway to finance its war machine and to strike at any ship entering prohibited zones. The minister also affirmed Iraq's commitment to the five principles contained in President Saddam Husayn's message to Iran's rulers as a just, honorable basis for ending the war.

Peres on Relations With Lebanon, Peace Conference

TA151052 Jerusalem Domestic Service in English 1000 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] Two years after Israel's withdrawal from Lebanon, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres is convinced that despite the recent increase in terrorist activity, Israel is now in a far better position than before its withdrawal. Peres spoke to Vivien Royston during a visit to the Good Fence near Metulla.

[Begin recording] [Royston] While touring the Good Fence near Metulla, which Shim'on Peres as defense minister opened in 1976, [break in studio transmission] terrorist activity in south Lebanon, Israel's situation is far better than it was while the Israel Defense Forces were in Lebanon.

[Peres] I think the problem we are facing is not so much in the relations between Lebanon and Israel, but very much in the relations between Lebanon and herself.

[Royston] What does Foreign Minister Peres feel an international peace conference can achieve that a regional peace conference, as suggested by Prime Minister Shamir, cannot?

[Peres] The only thing the regional peace conference cannot achieve is to have the Arab side — that's all. I mean, just to do a conference with ourselves will not advance very much the peace momentum.

[Royston] An international opening, according to Peres, is for the time being the only option to have the Arab side partake in the negotiations.

[Peres] What is the sense to negotiate with ourselves?

[Royston] What do you mean, ourselves? A regional would mean Jordan, countries of this area.

[Peres] Yes, but the Jordanians are not ready to do so.

[Royston] Have they point-blank refused?

[Peres] Oh, yes. Sure. Otherwise we wouldn't go to the international opening.

[Royston] Peres is equally adamant that although he does not have a mandate to conclude an international peace conference, there is nothing to stop or prevent negotiations in that direction. [end recording]

Meets With Lahd, Praises SLA

TA151717 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1230 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] This morning, Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres visited Metulla and, among other things, met with Antoine Lahd, commander of the South Lebanese Army [SLA]. In reply to a question by Menahem Horowitz, our correspondent in the north, Shim'on Peres said that at this stage Israel will not expand the security zone in southern Lebanon. Peres praised the SLA for succeeding in withstanding the terrorists' recent attempts to attack it.

[Begin Peres recording] It is our general feeling that the SLA has improved. It has consolidated itself among the inhabitants and is also performing better operationally. The SLA is in the process of improving and in the latest clashes it certainly withstood as it should have. [end recording]

Paper Notes Clauses From Peres-Husayn Agreement

TA151003 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 15 Jun 87 p 2

[Report by the political correspondent in Jerusalem]

[Text] Upon the renewed flare-up of the argument between the Likud and the Alignment over the question of an international conference, sources in the Prime Minister's Office disclosed yesterday that the agreement between Peres and Husayn does not include any clause whatsoever discussing solely the opening of an international conference. Moreover, in the agreement Peres abandoned an explicit clause according to which any entity taking part in the conference must recognize the State of Israel's right to exist. This clause appears in all previous documents that have served as the basis for negotiations between Israel and Arab countries.

Although a secret clause in the agreement states that the negotiations will be held by an Israeli-Jordanian-Palestinian conference, this cannot conceal the absence of a clause talking solelyabout the opening of an international conference.

Moreover, the superpowers invited to the conference interpret their participation as active and not just ceremonial. This emerged in talks conducted with Britain, France, and other European countries.

According to the Peres-Husayn document, the PLO can also take part in the conference because the formal invitation will say that the participants must accept UN Resolutions 242 and 338. In addition, it will include a clause stating that the conference will discuss "a response to the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people." This has always been a fundamental demand of the PLO, which argues that Resolution 242 does not clearly reflect the Palestinian rights.

As for Peres' recent claim that the rejection of an international conference and the inclusion of the Soviet Union would harm the cause of Jewish aliyah [immigration] from the Soviet Union, the same sources noted that the question of immigration is not at all related to the international conference and that this issue is being discussed by the two superpowers as part of the debate over human rights. During the years when the Soviet Union opened its gates to immigration, this had nothing to do with negotiations in the Middle East but with the state of relations between the two superpowers.

In recent talks with statesmen both here and abroad, Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir made it plain that the Cabinet had never passed a decision about an international conference and that no one has a mandate to conduct negotiations on this matter.

Shamir made these comments in view of Mr Peres' announcement regarding his trip to Europe at the end of the month to discuss the participation of the European countries only in the opening of an international conference.

The following is the text of the secret agreement reached between Peres and Husayn on 11 April in London:

(Agreement between the Jordanian Government, which it approved before the U.S. Government, and the Israeli foreign minister pending the approval — ad referendum — of the Israeli Government. Once they are publicized following an agreement between the sides involved,clauses A and B will be regarded as U.S. proposals accepted by Jordan and Israel. Clause C should be treated with utmost secrecy as a commitment to the United States by the Jordanian Government, which will be forwarded to the Israeli Government.)

A. Invitation by the UN secretary general.

B. Decisions of the international conference.

C. The "modalities" agreed by Jordan and Israel.

A. The secretary general will issue invitations to the five permanent members of the UN Security Council and to the parties involved in the Arab-israeli conflict to negotiate a peace agreement based on Resolutions 242 and 338 to bring comprehensive peace to the region, security to its countries, and a response to the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people.

B. The participants in the conference agree that the purpose of the negotiations is to attain a peaceful solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict based on Resolutions 242 and 338 and a peaceful solution of all aspects of the Palestinian problem. The conference invites the sides to set up bilateral geographic committees to negotiate mutual problems. [No Clause C as published]

Egypt's Basyuni Rejects Regional Conference

TA151105 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1000 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] Egyptian Ambassador to Israel Muhammad Basyuni rejects the regional conference idea put forward by Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir as a substitute for Shim'on Peres' international conference. While on a visit to Haifa, Mr Basyuni said that only an international conference would guarantee the sides' participation in negotiations. Our correspondent Haviva Roger reports:

[Begin recording][Roger] You cannot play chess with yourselves. You must listen to the arguments presented by the other sides, said the Egyptian ambassador when asked about the prime minister's proposal to hold a conference comprising the countries of the region. Without the participation of the five permanent UN Security Council members, no one will take part in such a conference, Mr Basyuni stated.

[Basyuni — in English] So, without the participation of all these five permanent members in the United Nations, nobody will come to participate.

[Roger] He added that an international conference would be able to guarantee the maintenance of agreements to be achieved among the sides.

[Basyuni — in English] Who will give the guarantee for both Israel and both the Arabs? Who will give the guarantee? The international conference will give the guarantee.

[Roger] We did not intend to reach a separate peace with Israel,the Egyptian ambassador said. That was just a first step toward comprehensive peace. The ambassador was asked why Egyptian tourists are not coming to Israel. He gave assurances that the Egyptian Government is not placing obstacles in the path of Egyptian tourists, but it cannot force them to come. Egyptian tourists find Israel very expensive, and Egyptians generally prefer to stay in Egypt rather thantour other countries, including Greece or Spain. He has another reason, too:

[Basyuni — in English] If you are Egyptian and watching the television — the Israeli television; I will not quote any other television — and to see by yourself two settlers shooting the unarmed Palestinian people, I think that you will not come.

Foreign Ministry Official on Tabah Dispute

TA151124 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1100 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] Robi Sabel, the Foreign Ministry's legal adviser, said that in the Tabah affair Egyptians tend to accept the Israeli argument that the decisive border should be the line agreed on at the beginning of the century between Britain and Turkey, and that the main argument is over the demarcation of this line. Mr Sabel disclosed to our correspondent Gid'on Remez that Egyptian documents actually confirming that most of the disputed area was once included in the territory of Eretz Yisra'el have been appended to the Israeli paper submitted to arbitration. Mr Sabel is currently part of a team of experts from Israel texting the reply to the document submitted by Egypt. Both sides must submit their replies by October.

Reported Meeting With Syria in Switzerland

NC151351 Cairo MENA in Arabic 1330 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] Geneva, 15 Jun (MENA) — MENA has learned from well-informed diplomatic sources in Geneva that a meeting was held between Israel and Syria on 20 May in Basel, Switzerland, to coordinate efforts for joint meetings and to reconcile the two countries' views. The same sources added that this meeting follows other recent exchanges presumably aimed at discussing the parameters of the two countries' activities in Lebanon. The sources rejected the possibility that these meetings touched on the issue of the occupied Golan Heights.

Shamir Aide Denies Meeting

TA160940 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 0930 GMT 16 Jun 87

[Text] The Egyptian news agency reports today [as heard] that Israeli and Syrian officials conferred in Geneva on 20 May to discuss the situation in Lebanon. The Egyptian news agency quotes diplomatic sources in Geneva as saying that the discussions did not dwell on the issue of the Golan Heights, but on attempts to determine the boundaries of the zones of influence of both countries in Lebanon.

In reaction, an aide of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir told an AP correspondent that he does not know anything about any such meeting. This is just speculation and I do not believe the report is true, the aide asserted.

Mauritius 'Likely' To Resume Relations 'Shortly'

TA151035 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 15 Jun 87 p 1

[Report by political correspondent Yosi Melman]

[Excerpt] Mauritius is the next African country likely to resume diplomatic relations with Israel shortly, *Davar* learned from authoritative sources in Jerusalem at the outset of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir's tour of West Africa.

Israeli officials are currently trying to finalize the specifics of the agreement that will lead to the resumption of relations with the island nation in the Indian Ocean. They said that there are no plans to include Mauritius in the prime minister's tour.

Shamir left last night and is scheduled to arrive in Lome, the capital of Togo, this morning. The officials, nevertheless, pointed out that chances are slim that Kenya and Nigeria, two of the largest countries in the continent, erroneously mentioned in the media as prospective candidates for the resumption of relations, will renew their ties in the near future. [passage omitted]

AL-SHA'B on Budapest Meeting, Referendum Proposal

TA151443 Jerusalem AL-SHA'B in Arabic 12 Jun 87 p 1

[Editorial: "The Budapest Meeting and the Foundations of a Just Peace"]

[Text] At a time when voices in Israel are rising and calling for the imposition of harsh penalties on members of the Israeli delegation that departed a few days ago for Budapest and held talks with a Palestinian delegation, which included two members of the PLO Executive Committee, the Israeli Labor Party has announced its intention to hold a referendum to gauge Israeli opinion aboput the convocation of an international peace conference on the Middle East.

These two developments in themselves reflect the crisis that Israeli society is experiencing with regard to the problem of reaching a peaceful and just solution in the region. The Labor Party, which raised the issue of holding a referendum, was the one that approved the law preventing Israelis from holding contacts with the PLO.

Should a referendum be held in Israel on the international peace conference, we propose that it include other questions as well, such as: With whom do the Israelis want to make peace? With whom do they want to sit around the table of an international conference? And what are the bases for convening such an international conference?

Perehaps the step taken by another Israeli group in holding a second meeting with the PLO, thus violating the law that prevents contacts with the PLO — which was approved by both Labor and Likud without being put to a referendum by either of the two parties prior to its endorsement by the Knesset — provides an answer to these questions, which should be added to the referendum that the Labor leaders intend to hold.

We believe that the foundations of a just and durable peace in the Middle East are obvious to any side that wants to proceed on the course of peace. The goal of pointing out these foundations is the adoption of the best course leading to a peace that will ensure the right of repatriation and self-determination for the Palestinian people, as well as their right to establish an independent state on their national soil under the leadership of the PLO, the Palestinian people's legitimate and sole representative. Any endeavor to bypass these foundations and realities reflects the nature of the acute crisis experienced by the other side on the problem of a just peace.

AL-SHIRA' Comments on 'Trial' of Hostages in Iran

NC160721 Beirut AL-SHIRA' in Arabic 15 Jun 87 P 7

[Text] The exclusive report published by *Al-Shira'* that Imam Khomeyni has formed a five-member committee to discuss the issue of foreign hostages in Lebanon has attracted worldwide media attention, the reverberations of which have not yet died down. The report has even led U.S. State Department spokesman Charles Redman to reply to *Al-Shira'* and its editor Hasan Sabra by name, saying "that he believes Iran, according to an *Al-Shira'* report, has taken a serious step toward discussing this complicated issue."

From the moment the report was mentioned in an interview between French reporter (Roger Fourre), a Radio Europe 1 correspondent, and Hasan Sabra, the world media have for 2 weeks been publishing details of the report and accounts of meetings with the editor of *Al-Shira'*. These include press and television interviews with *Reuter*, AP, UPI, *The Sunday Telegraph*, *Newsweek*, a pictorial report on *Al-Shira'* by Canadian television, and talks by France International radio and the Swiss radio.

Local media — private television and radio stations — have also shown interest by reporting the details of the French correspondent's interview with Sabra. This was published in the French paper *Le Matin* and was also reported by AFP. It was accurately quoted in the Gulf Arab and Egyptian press as well.

Following up the report on the abovementioned committee published by *Al-Shira'*, and its editor's interviews with world media, *Al-Shira'* confirms the report again. It also notes that the other wing in Iran, which represents the logic of the revolution, and which is led by Khomeyni's successor Shaykh Hoseyn Montazeri, is specifically demanding the trial of U.S. hostages, particularly as some of them have in fact been moved to Iran. This was confirmed to *Al-Shira'* by sources very close to Shaykh Montazeri's office in Qom. These hostages are undergoing intensive investigations by Iranian intelligence supervised by Shaykh Mohammad Reyshahri, Iranian minister of security and intelligence.

Iranian Mission Prepares For Islamic Republic

NC160554 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 16 Jun 87

[Text] According to exclusive information received by the *Al-Ahrar* newspaper, Iranian Ambassador in Beirut Ahmad Dastmalchiyan has held an expanded meeting at the Iranian Embassy. At the meeting, attended by a number of shaykhs and Iranian officials, he introduced members of the Iranian mission who had accompanied him from Iran to study new ways of furthering the campaign to set up an Islamic republic in Lebanon.

Ayatollah Ahmad Jannati, official in charge of spreading the Islamic spirit in Iran and exporting it to other countries and minister of Islamic guidance [title as heard], spoke during the meeting and said that the mission is working to establish an Islamic regime and to draw up an Islamic constitution. He added that the goal is to establish an Islamic republic in Lebanon. They are not seeking to solve Lebanese problems in the interests of Muslims, he said, but to create an extremist Khomeynite situation in Lebanon. He stated that the draft constitution currently being prepared stresses the rule of the autocrat, the rule of a man of religion, and declared that the Revolutionary Guards only want to revive a moral Islamic movement.

Al-Huss Signs Law on 17 May, Cairo Agreements

NC151323 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] President Shaykh Amin al-Jumayyil has promulgated Law No 25/87 which cancels the government's authority to ratify the agreement of 17 May 1983 and annuls the Cairo accord, which will henceforth be considered as never having existed. The law was approved by the Chamber of Deputies approximately a month ago. Acting Prime Minister Dr Salim al-Huss has signed the law, which comes into effect as soon as it is published in the official gazette.

Al-Rasi Resumes Duties, Rules Out Military Action

NC151442 Beirut Domestic Service in English 1410 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Excerpt] Interior Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi, who was wounded in the helicopter blast which killed Prime Minister Karami 2 weeks ago, returned to Beirut for the first time since the assassination and resumed his official duties today. Dr al-Rasi told newsmen that the present situation was extremely dangerous, but he ruled out military action at present.

The interior minister indicated that former President Sulayman Franjiyah, who is his father-in-law, is expected to visit Damascus shortly. In a strong statement on the assassination of the prime minister, Dr al-Rasi said: We are waiting for the names of those who perpetrated the crime and those who were delinquent and negligent. He declared that the investigations have established that the explosive device was installed at the air base of the helicopter.

On arrival at his office, Minister al-Rasi called [acting] Prime Minister Salim al-Huss and later visited him at his residence to discuss the situation arising from the assassination of the prime minister. He later told newsmen that he had discussed the grave situation with Dr al-Huss and that they had agreed on the need to encourage the people of goodwill who are concerned about the unity of the nation and the restoration of legitimacy in all parts of the country.

The interior minister said that the investigations have confirmed what he had said on the day of the assassination; namely, that the explosive device was placed on the helicopter before it went to the north. In response to questions raised by newsmen on the possibility of military action involving the north, Minister al-Rasi ruled out such a possibility at present, but insisted that the investigation into the assassination must produce tangible results. [passage omitted]

Calls for Army Deployment

NC160511 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0300 GMT 16 Jun 87

[Text] Interior Minister Dr 'Abdallah al-Rasi has called for the deployment of the Army in areas now under the control of the Lebanese Forces. In an interview with AFP, Dr al-Rasi said that politicians must support the Army to enable it to deploy in these areas and then throughout Lebanon, adding that Lebanon can only be saved by the deployment of the Army.

Attempts should be made to introduce concrete changes and political reforms to save Lebanon, he said, adding that President al-Jumayyil has shown signs of being ready to do this. However, some tangible evidence is necessary, he added.

Al-Hashim Rejects Outbreak of Hostilities

NC151512 Beirut Domestic Service in English
1410 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] Communications and Health Minister Joseph al-Hashim today urged Speaker al-Husayni to withdraw his resignation and called for the formation of a broad-based front which would enable Lebanon to face the hardships of the present stage. Minister al-Hashim made these remarks during a meeting with the head of the union of journalists, Milhim Karam, who had called on him to press for special facilities for journalists in terms of international telephone rates.

Minister al-Hashim described the late Prime Minister Karami as a strong barricade which held up the collapse of Lebanon. He described the assassination of the prime minister as a flagrant attempt to assassinate Lebanon by provoking conflict and strikes which would destroy the remaining chances for political accord. Minister al-Hashim declared that this was no ordinary crime; it was rather an attempt to discredit national institutions, as well as kill one of the nation's top leaders. He described the killing of the prime minister as considerably different from any other crime. He expressed confidence that the investigation committee would establish the guilt of the criminals. He called for restraint until the findings of the investigations are published. Minister al-Hashim ruled out any outbreak of hostilities in the near future and described rumors to this effect as part of the overall effort to shake confidence in Lebanon and its legitimate institutions.

Judicial Investigator Receives Military Report

NC160857 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0700 GMT 16 Jun 87

[Text] Judicial investigator Judge Munif 'Uwaydat received the Military Committee's report last night on the investigation into Prime Minister Rashid Karami's assassination. 'Uwaydat said the committee's report is important from the technical standpoint and will facilitate the criminal investigation. He disclosed that the first stage of the inquiry will be completed on Thursday [18 June].

The Military Council asked the Military Committee to complete the administrative investigation after it had become apparent that the committee had not completed the work it was requested to do.

Deputy Speaker 'Ruled Out' Al-Husayni Resignation

NC151525 Beirut Domestic Service in English
1410 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Excerpt] Vice Speaker [of the Chamber of Deputies] Albert Mukhaybir today ruled out the resignation of Speaker al-Husayni and declared that serious efforts are underway to break the political deadlock in the country. The vice speaker made these remarks after a lengthy meeting with Speaker al-Husayni at his Ba'labakk residence, which was followed by a working lunch.

In a reference to the Damascus talks, Dr Mukhaybir said that the situation is reassuring in view of the understanding of the Syrian authorities and the general desire to resume normal talks designed to help promote the unity of Lebanon and to rescue the legitimate authorities and institutions by restoring Lebanese unity. He said that all sides have a golden opportunity today to benefit from the help of Syria and to get together and forget their differences. He noted that parliament had already rejected the resignation of the speaker; as such, this was no longer an issue. [passage omitted]

Paper Discloses Details of New National Front

JN151715 Abu Dhabi AL-ITTIHAD in Arabic
14 Jun 87 pp 1, 8

[Text] Representatives from Lebanon's Progressive Socialist Party, the Communist Party, the Syrian Ba'th Party, the Popular Nasirite Organization, and the Amal Movement have approved a draft plan for forming a new nationalist front after 3 days of discussions. The document's 26 full pages constitute the program of action, according to what Eng 'Asim Qansuh told *Al-Ittihad*. *Al- Ittihad* has obtained the most prominent points of the draft plan before it is submitted to Nabih Birri and Walid Junblatt in Damascus tomorrow, Monday.

The most prominent points stipulate the following:

First: Endeavoring by all means to expose those who planned and carried out the assassination of late Prime Minister Rashid Karami and placing full responsibility on the regime, the Lebanese Army, and the Lebanese Forces until the full facts behind the assassination are revealed.

Second: Continuing to boycott the regime on all levels and escalating popular opposition to the stand of the regime, which sought to thwart the Damascus talks and subsequently cover up for the killers of martyr Rashid Karami.

Third: The Front will confront all partitionists and those seeking to fragment the homeland with all its political and military means.

Fourth: The Front will be open to all nationalists and will consequently be the pillar of a broad nationalist front to face the forthcoming stage.

Fifth: Reinforcing all forms of military, popular, and political struggle against the Israeli occupation, supporting national resistance, liquidating direct and indirect Israeli presence, and rejecting all forms of security arrangements.

Sixth: Adhering to and entrenching Lebanon's unity, eliminating all kinds of sectarianism and subsequent division and harm, and rejecting all suspect talk of religous societies.

Seventh: Endeavoring to reinforce and bolster the struggle relations between all nationalist factions and ending the effects of the regrettable incidents that resulted from the climates created by the conspiracies of suspect organs.

Eighth: Endeavoring to facilitate all kinds of administrations to run the nationalist regions in accordance with a popular plan of action to limit current social and economic crises and bolster the work of governmental institutions and bodies.

Ninth: Endeavoring to reinforce action with the honorable Palestinian resistance and adopting the Damascus document issued on 17 Jun 1985 as a sound basis for governing the brotherly and militant relations between the Palestinian and Lebanese peoples.

Tenth: Endeavoring to reorganize and rehabilitate the Lebanese Army after apprehending all those responsible for the assassination of Prime Minister Rashid Karami and turning the Lebanese Army into a nationalist army capable of carrying out national and pan-Arab duties in coordination with the Syrian Arab Army.

Al-Ittihad has learned that sharp discussions preceded agreement on the Front's draft plan, especially since Amal representatives Muhammad Baydun and Haytham Jum'ah expressed reservation on a number of points referred to Damascus for discussion through Ministers Birri and Junblatt. A political source, which participated in the meetings that prepared the draft plan, said if the plan is approved, a nationalist meeting will be held during which the Front will be officially announced. Afterward, the framework of the Front will be expanded to include higher-level nationalists to lead nationalist action in the post-Karami assassination phase.

Birri: 'Great Progress' Made

JN151721 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic
1700 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] Lebanese President Amin al-Jumayyil today signed the bill passed by the Lebanese National Assembly on 21 May abrogating the 1969 Cairo agreement [regulating the Palestinian presence in Lebanon]. The bill needed to be signed by the president to become law and that has been done today.

Meanwhile, efforts to establish an expanded national front continue. Nabih Birri, who met in Damascus with Syrian Vice President 'Abd al-Halim Khaddam, said great progress has been achieved toward establishing a national front. Birri, in his capacity as minister of justice, has criticized what he called foot-dragging in the inquiry of the assassination of Prime Minister Rashid Karami.

In statement to the press today, Birri urged the Lebanese Army in East Beirut to replace the Lebanese Forces there and to exercise its control over these areas. The same demand was made by Lebanese Interior Minister 'Abdallah al-Rasi.

Ja'Ja' on Syrian Military, Socioeconomic Pressure

NC151754 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1615 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Excerpts] Lebanese Forces Commander Dr Samir Ja'ja' has declared that, no matter how many meetings are held in Syria, Damascus will remain Damascus, and Beirut will remain Beirut. Consequently, Syria will remain Syria, and Lebanon will remain Lebanon. He stressed that various types of pressure to attain Syrian objectives in Lebanon had failed utterly. He reiterated that any attempt to bring military pressure to bear on [Beirut's] eastern areas will be effectively, strongly, and vigorously confronted. These remarks were contained in an address Dr Ja'ja' made during celebrations this afternoon by the social security establishment in Al-Ahsrafiyah. [passage omitted] Dr Ja'ja' said:

[Begin recording] Syria is trying to get its hands on Lebanon as a prelude to attaining its objectives. It has used numerous tools for the purpose, including military pressure. Syria has used its Army, as in 1976 and 1977, when it was directly involved in the battle of (Billa) in the district of Bsharri. The Syrian Army was directly involved in the battle of Al-Ashrafiyah, where we now stand, in 1978. [applause] Syria used its Army in the battle of [word indistinct] in 1980; in the battle of Zahlah and other areas in 1981; in the mountain battle in 1983; and, last but not least, Syria used its Army to bombard the eastern areas in 1986 following the collapse of the tripartite agreement.

After having used all means of pressure and such tools, the Syrians failed to achieve any of their objectives in Lebanon. Then they decided to resort to more effective, comprehensive, and useful means. The military pressure might affect only fighters and their families; security pressure might affect a few citizens; and political pressure might affect certain politicians. Therefore, they devised a means of affecting all citizens which would weaken our society's steadfastness. They drew up a plan to impose socioeconomic pressure, which entailed crippling public administration and establishments. After consultations with Prime Minister Rashid Karami the Syrians easily found their means to achieve this objective. They agreed on the boycott principle, which has been in effect for 1 and 1/2 years. When the boycott began, public establishments and administration were crippled. This is behind the current social problems and economic pressure. [end recording]

Sa'adah Addresses Phalangists on Anniversary

NC151259 Beirut Voice of Lebanon in Arabic
1115 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Excerpts] On the first anniversary of the election of the Phalangist Party leader and Political Bureau members, Phalangist

leader Dr George Sa'adah spoke at a joint Political Bureau, Consultative Committee, and Central Council meeting today. Sa'adah outlined the party's policies since he assumed office. [passage omitted] Here are some excerpts of what he said:

[Begin Sa'adah recording] [passage omitted] Our party has always maintained that only the legitimate state apparatus should be recognized in this country. We say no to the state's reduced authority and yes to its full authority; no to the mini-states and yes to the one state; no to sectarian brigades and yes to a national army. We have repeatedly and tirelessly spelled out our party's steady and decisive policies on many issues. We have called for the legal and constitutional annulment of the Cairo agreement, the observance of the 1949 truce agreement as an internationally guaranteed document governing the Lebanese-Israeli relationship, and the implementation of international resolutions calling for the liberation of all Lebanese territories.

We also call for ending the political boycott to clear the way for the implementation of the following measures:

1. Ending speculation in the money markets;

2. Reforming the financial policies by steamlining expenditures and reviewing the current subsidy policy;

3. Reforming monetary policies;

4. Restructuring the economy with a view to stimulating production;

5. Alleviating poverty; and

6. Convening a special conference to discuss the refugee problem. [end recording]

Israelis Occupy UNIFIL Position, Later Withdraw

NC151344 Paris AFP in English 1331 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] Al-Naqurah, Lebanon, June 15 (AFP) — Fifty Israeli soldiers occupied a position held by Norwegian troops of the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon Monday, but pulled out after intervention by a senior U.N. officer, a source close to UNIFIL said.

The source said the Israelis drove to the position at Balat, near Marj 'Uyun, which is inside the "security zone" established by Israel on the Lebanese side of its northern border, aboard ten military vehicles at 10 a.m. (0700 GMT).

They were persuaded to retire by French General Michel Zeisser, UNIFIL's second-in-command. Not a shot was fired.

It was the first incident of its kind inside the security zone the source added.

Meanwhile a soldier of the Nepalese contingent in UNIFIL was wounded early Monday when the pro-Israeli South Lebanon Army militia fired on a Nepalese position on the outskirts of the security zone, the spokesman added.

On Sunday the Nepalese lobbed mortar shells at SLA troops in retaliation for a machinegun attack on their position. There were no casualties.

Gunmen opened fire twice on Sunday on an Irish position near the security zone, without causing casualties, the source added.

On Saturday, 20 armed men seized four automatic weapons belonging to Nepalese troops. UNIFIL later recovered the arms.

Iran's Musavi To Make 'Official' Visit

LD150046 Kuwait KUNA in English 1536 GMT 14 Jun 87

[Text] Damascus, June 14 (KUNA) — Iranian Prime Minister Mir-Hoseyn Musavi, leading a high level delegation, will pay an official one-week visit to Syria next Wednesday.

Musavi will discuss with his Syrian counterpart Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm, the situation in the region, Iraq-Iran war, latest developments on the Lebanese arena and bilateral relations.

Meanwhile, the Syrian-Iranian Joint Committee for Economic Cooperation will meet here during the coming two days.

Syrian Minister of Oil and Mineral Wealth Ghazi al-Durubi, visited Iran last month to renew the annual contract for importing Iranian oil for Syria in implementation of the protocol signed between the two countries in 1982 for a period of ten years.

CPSU Central Committee's Katushev Makes Visit

Arrives 15 Jun

JN151307 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] Konstantin Katushev, CPSU Central Committee member and chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations, who heads the Soviet side to the joint Syrian-Soviet commission for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation, has arrived in Damascus. He is leading a delegation on a working visit, which is scheduled to stay for several days. He was welcomed at Damascus International Airport by Dr. Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning.

Comrade Katushev told SANA that he is visiting Syria for the ninth session of the joint Syrian-Soviet commission. A number of major issues will be discussed. He said a new agreement is in place to upgrade bilateral cooperation as defined in the talks held between President al-Asad and Comrade Mikhail Gorbachev, general secretary of the CPSU Central Committee, during Al-Asad's visit to the Soviet Union in April. Katushev emphasized that the goal of this session is to put into effect the measures to boost bilateral cooperation that the two leaders agreed upon during their meeting in Moscow.

Begins Economic Talks

JN160738 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] The ninth session of the permanent Syrian-Soviet joint commission for economic, scientific, and technical cooperation was opened in Damascus this evening.

The opening session was chaired on the Syrian side by Dr Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs, and on the Soviet side by Comrade Konstantin Katushev, chairman of the State Committee for Foreign Economic Relations. Dr Baqjaji noted that the joint committee was formed approximately 15 years ago. Its purpose has been to implement the directives of the leader of the march Comrade Struggler Hafiz al-Asad and of the Soviet leaderhip. Its goal has been to develop and bolster relations between the two friendly countries in all fields.

Dr Baqjaji reviewed the important and vital accomplishments attained through joint cooperation. This helped develop our country and enhance our steadfastness against all imperialist and Zionist plots and economic pressures. He also stressed that boosting and developing cooperation with the friendly socialist countries and President Hafiz al-Asad's recent visit to the Soviet Union opened new horizons for fruitful cooperation between the two friendly countries.

Comrade Katushev, head of the Soviet side to the commission, praised the distinguished relations between the two countries in all fields. He noted that during President Hafiz al-Asad's recent visit to Moscow, the two sides stressed the need to promote relations on the basis of the bilateral friendship and cooperation treaty. He emphasized that the talks between Al-Asad and Gorbachev opened new horizons for reinforcing relations and entrenching cooperation. He said this is something which has effectively contributed to the confrontation of the imperialist and Zionist schemes.

Earlier this afternoon, Dr Baqjaji received Comrade Katushev in his office and discussed with him bilateral relations and the topics on the agenda of the ninth session of the permanent Syrian-Soviet joint commission.

Talas Receives Soviet Deputy Chief of Staff

JN152035 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 2015 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister, received at his office this evening Gen Lobov, first deputy chief of staff of the Soviet Army, and his accompanying delegation. The meeting was attended by Chief of Staff Gen Hikmat al-Shihabi and Gen 'Ali Aslan and Major General Hasan al-Turkumani, deputies chief of staff. Talks dealt with the cordial relations between the two friendly countries and ways to promote them to serve the combat capability of the Syrian Armed Forces.

Prime Minister Reviews Amman Talks With Cabinet

JN151226 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 1115 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] The Council of Ministers held a meeting under Prime Minister Dr 'Abd al-Ra'uf al-Kasm at 1100 today. During the meeting, Dr al-Kasm explained the positive results of the Syrian-Jordanian talks held during the visit he and the accompanying delegation paid to Amman. The talks discussed the overall Arab situation, the current situation in the region. The political, economic, trade, and cultural situations were also reviewed. Possibilities for the enhancement of effective cooperation between the two fraternal parties were discussed.

The prime minister affirmed his satisfaction over the results of these talks. The Council of Ministers also discussed a number of topics on the agenda and adopted the appropriate decisions on them.

Voice of Iraq Criticizes Saddam Oil Policy

JN151125 Damascus Voice of Iraq in Arabic 1700-1800 GMT 12 Jun 87

[From "The Week's Events" program: "The Iraqi Regime's Oil Policy Encourages Confusion in the Oil Market and Is a Bloody Investment in the Aggressive War"]

[Text] Brothers in Iraq: 'Isam al-Jalabi, the Iraqi regime's oil minister, has said that his regime will produce and export the largest possible quantity of Iraqi oil, ignoring OPEC production quotas. He also said that work continued to expand oil lines crossing Turkish and Saudi territory to absorb the large quantities to be produced by Iraqi oil fields during the coming period. He added that during the past period Iraq increased production by 1.6 billion barrels and that his regime is planning to increase its production to 3 million barrels per day.

Gulf economic sources said that the statement made by Minister Al-Jalabi is a stab in the back of OPEC and its unity. The sources added that such a trend will encourage confusion in the world oil market.

It is certain that the tyrant regime is now trying to implement the overall U.S. policy in the region and to place the region in the service of the U.S. military. The fascist regime in Baghdad is playing a dual role. This serves the United States economically and militarily. On one hand, the Iraqi regime is trying to create an atmosphere for accepting U.S. fleets and forces in the region. On the other, it is trying to decrease oil prices in the world market to the lowest rate through its policy aimed at undermining OPEC.

On this basis, aborting the Iraqi link in the U.S. plot is not a national objective only but also a pan-Arab objective. This is because butcher Saddam Husayn represents a serious obstacle to the positive regional developments and because his presence is a danger to the interests and objectives of the Arab national liberation movement and to all the peoples in the region.

Gandhi Welcomes Relief Accord With Sri Lanka

BK161030 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 16 Jun 87

[Text] Mr Rajiv Gandhi has welcomed the agreement on the dispatch of Indian relief supplies to people in Jaffna. Addressing a party convention in Pune this morning, he said the Sri Lankan problem can still be solved amicably. Mr Gandhi said that under no circumstances the country will be allowed to be weakened. He said the unity, integrity, and security of the country will be maintained at all costs.

Paper Seeks Rolling Back of Sri Lankan Successes

BK151415 Delhi THE HINDU in English 6 Jun 87 p 8

[Editorial: "A Message to Sri Lanka, a New Policy Course"]

[Text] India's Operation Air Relief for the Jaffna Peninsula — carried out perfectly by the Air Force on the wings of five AN-32 transport aircraft escorted by four Mirage 2000 fighters — is a fine example of a meshing of humanitarian and political objectives in a graduated and still developing response which has won the enthusiastic backing of the people of this country, the Tamil population in Sri Lanka and people of sensitivity and goodwill round the world. The Prime Minister, Mr. Rajiv Gandhi, and the Central Government must be congratulated for taking this bold and imaginative, and yet sober, policy course — the wider implications of which must not be underestimated — and it is heartening that there is a total Opposition consensus backing the content and spirit of the action. Dropping some 25 tonnes of relief goods to a people living through an unprecedented time of troubles in the face of a genocidal military attack launched by its own Government might seem symbolic rather than substantive relief (perhaps even a high-flying "gimmick" to jaundiced Western critics). But let there be no ambiguity about the purpose behind, and the content of, this IAF [Indian Air Force] mission — which (as *The Hindu's* Special Correspondent who flew on the mission as an observer along with other media persons, Indian and foreign, noted) "became inevitable" in the face of a much softer option floundering on account of "the hotheads prevailing" in Colombo.

Mr. Jayewardene and his associates must understand that this is a message from the Government and people of India who are firmly united on the issues of justice and politics behind this question (even if differences abound on various other issues) and are determined to follow this up, if the need arises. India is the frontline state vis-a-vis the genocidal crisis in Sri Lanka and no amount of self-congratulation, abuse and mock-heroic, tragi-comic bluster by the Premadasas [Sri Lankan prime minister] and the Athulathmudalis [Sri Lankan national security advisor] can make any material difference to this rather large reality. Every child in the South Asian region must be expected to know that the physical, political, military and logistical capabilities to counter the Sri Lankan ruling clique's brutal course against innocent Tamil civilians are very much in the possession of India — that's not the problem at all. A review of the performance of Indian official policy from 1985 does suggest that New Delhi has been taken for a ride by Colombo — as a recent policy statement by Mr. Rajiv Gandhi virtually acknowledged. The weakening of solidarity with the Tamils, the absence of a firm baseline and a coherent strategic direction, and the superficial and uncoordinated approach characteristic of post-1985 policy have been repeatedly criticised by *The Hindu* and other newspapers. The IAF's mission over the Jaffna Peninsula could be taken as a dramatic demonstration that this costly phase of self-imposed weakness is over and a new policy based on firm solidarity values (vis-a-vis the reasonable aspirations on the Tamil side) and a progressive articulation of the national interest has been inaugurated. The initiative is now in India's hands — after a long while — and the gains from sending the timely message of humanitarian-political solidarity with the battered Tamils must be built upon intelligently, boldly, concertedly.

There cannot be the slightest doubt that what has brought about this unprecedented crisis in Sri Lanka, and this pass in Indo-Sri Lankan relations, is the Jayewardene regime's pursuit of a disastrous military solution to the "ethnic crisis" through the "two track" route. (A third track, perhaps, is represented by the induction of an assortment of external elements hostile to India.) The euphoria surrounding the IAF relief mission (which came incidentally, in the wake of a soft option sea voyage which seemed to turn into a "damp squib", inviting quick-to-the-draw ridicule and condescension from sections of the Western Media, including "liberal" publications such as *The Guardian* of England) must not allow anyone to forget this fact. The Sri Lankan Government's military offensive which is concentrated in the Jaffna Peninsula remains a grave danger to hundreds of thousands of innocent Tamil civilians, and has already taken an appalling toll of lives, livelihood and spirit. If the offensive continues, or is not swiftly called off, the task of breaking the back of this ruthless anti-human offensive — through a combination of some kind of direct action and major solidarity assistance to the armed militant Tamil resistance, chiefly the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] in cooperation with EROS [Eelam Revolutionary Organization of Students] — remains ahead of the Government and people of India. This country's policy objectives remain very much in place. The motivation and interest behind the policy still favour creating just and realistic conditions on the ground which alone, experience now clearly shows, would permit meaningful talks on a political settlement. This means a clear and genuine rollback of the results inflicted by the post-December 19 military offensive, because there can be no questioin of resuming any kind of equitable peace process or political initiative on the basis of an unjust freeze on the ground, which would leave the Tamil side in a visible position of weakness in a negotiating situation. If the correct steps and methodology are pursued, it is by no means too late for the affairs of state in Sri Lanka to return to a path of sanity and political wisdom.

Tamil Refugees Continue To Leave For Tamil Nadu

BK150918 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0830 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] In the continuing exodus of Tamil refugees from Sri Lanka, 300 more refugees yesterday arrived in seven boats at the Tamil Nadu coast at Kottapatnam and Rameswaram. Over 1,500 people have arrived from the Jaffna Peninsula during the last 4 days.

The refugees told a news agency that several thousands more are waiting to board the boats sailing for Rameswaram and Vedaranyam. They said there are not enough boats to carry them.

A report from Rameswaram says that Sri Lankan Navy men intercepted four boats belonging to the Indian fishermen of the coast and threw their catch and fishing equipment into the sea when the boats had gone out for fishing last Friday [12 June]. The bodies of 10 Tamils believed to have been shot by the Sri Lankan Navy while trying to flee to India in a boat were washed ashore on the Mandativu coast near Jaffna on Saturday.

Our Colombo correspondent, Plabon Majumdar, reports that police commandos raided a militant hideout at Vellaveli about 32 km from the eastern town of Batticaloa. Ten militants were reported killed in the encounter between the security forces and the militants.

Meanwhile, the Sri Lankan national security minister, Mr Lalith Athulathmudali, left Colombo on an unannounced visit to Islamabad carrying a message from President Jayewardene to President Ziaul Haq. The Sri Lankan prime minister, Mr Premadasa, had informed Parliament on the 2d of this month that Pakistan has promised all assistance to his country. He was speaking in Parliament at a special session after India announced its decision to send relief supplies by boats to Jaffna Peninsula.

A BBC correspondent who recently visited Point Pedro, in northern Sri Lanka said that fierce fighting took place there between the security forces and the Tamil militants. He said the city center has been totally destroyed. Bunkers dug by the militants are still there. An official admitted to him that the area was bombarded. The correspondent says that there is acute scarcity of rice, wheat and fuel in Point Pedro town.

2 'Terrorists' Killed in 15 Jun Punjab Violence

BK151626 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] In Punjab, three persons including two terrorists were killed in two separate incidents this morning. In Amritsar city, one person was killed and two injured when some terrorists fired at them. In the other incident, two terrorists were killed in an encounter with the police in a village under Bagapurana Police Station in Faridkot early this morning. Some arms and ammunition were found at the site of the shoot-out.

9 More Killed by Punjab Police

BK160302 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 16 Jun 87

[Text] In Punjab, nine terrorists have been killed in separate encounters with the police and paramilitary forces since last night. In Amritsar District, three terrorists were killed in an encoutner with the police in a village under (Sarhali) Police Station early this morning. Six terrorists were killed in a separate encounter in the Faridkot District. A large amount of arms and ammunition has been recovered.

Strike Disrupts Normal Life in Assam 15 Jun

BK151615 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] In Assam, normal life in most of the tribal areas was affected today following a 24-hour statewide bundh [strike]. However, the bundh had no impact in other parts of the state. The bundh call was given by the All-Assam Tribal Students Union in protest against the alleged antitribal policies of the state government. The chief minister, Mr Prafulla Kumar Mahanta, however, says his government is committed to safeguarding the legitimate rights of the tribal people.

Further Reports on Visit by USSR's Vorontsov

Interviewed Prior to Departure

LD151136 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Yuliy Vorontsov, who led a political delegation to the Islamic Republic of Iran, left Tehran this morning. He was seen off by the deputy foreign minister for economic and international affairs.

In an interview given to our correspondent before his departure, he referred to the visit as highly significant, saying: The visit provided an opportunity to review the most important issues in relations and cooperation between the two countries. We achieved some positive results. We also managed to exchange views with regard to important international issues, as well as the threat posed by the U.S. presence in the Persian Gulf.

Yuliy Vorontsov added: In the Soviet Union we are of the opinion that the U.S. Armed Forces have no business in the region. If these forces happen to be simply defensive, then they belong in U.S. coastal waters. He continued: We favor the establishment of a peaceful atmosphere in this part of the world; we do not wish to see the flames of war in this region, for we would like to see prosperity for the peoples of the region.

In conclusion, expressing his wishes for the welfare and success of the Iranian people, he said: The USSR has feelings of friendship toward the Iranian people and revolution. We would be happy to describe our common borders as borders of friendship.

The Iranian deputy foreign minister, too, spoke about the identity of views held by the two countries with regard to the regional problems, saying: The two countries emphasize the need to safeguard the security of the Persian Gulf by peaceful means. We are certain that the talks shall continue in the future, with bilateral relations witnessing better days as they are strengthened.

Commentary Views Visit

LD151700 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1200 GMT 15 Jun 87

[From the press review; *Resalat* article entitled: "The Russians and the Big Test"]

[Text] In his meeting with the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Soviet deputy foreign affairs minister stated: We have nothing in common with U.S. imperialism, nor do we share any parallel approach on any issue.

This is a statement that must be proven in practice, otherwise it has no political weight. Regrettably, over the past years, the Russians have been pursuing some extremely incorrect stands in relation to Islamic Iran. By arming the Iraqi regime in the present imposed war, have taken a line parallel to that of America's. They have abandoned the powerful country of Iran and continue to support a defeated aggressor.

Unfortunately, a great weakness of the Kremlin rulers is their failure to comprehend their diplomatic mistakes in time. Especially in recent years, they have suffered irreparable damage as a result of this policy. (?The position) of the Soviet Union in the Persian Gulf also falls within this category. By failing to recognize the situation properly, they have become embroiled in the Persian Gulf saga. Lacking a correct assessment of the existing grounds and capabilities in this sensitive area, they have adopted different and, even, contradictory policies.

While the Russians were describing the Persian Gulf as a region of peace, stating that it should remain divorced from superpower rivalry, they, in another breath, embroiled themselves in the Persian Gulf's war and lack of security. They dispatched several ships to the Persian Gulf and, by this act, gave the United States license to bring military presence into this vital region.

Now, apart from the defeat suffered by the Kremlin following its erroneous policies, the question is raised: What are the Russians going to do from here on out? To clarify the issue, it seems appropriate to cast a brief look on the stands taken by various countries in regard to the security in the Persian Gulf.

Firstly, Saddam would like to see a complete absence of security in the entire Persian Gulf; he sees his own survival in the materialization of this issue. To achieve this goal, he will resort to any measure, even at the cost of dismaying his friends. His friends, though, have nothing to gain from Iraq in this region at present. Consequently, they intend to set the region ablaze by various means.

Secondly, the Kuwaiti regime wishes to rescue itself from the perilous situation in the Persian Gulf by any possible means and thereby make only itself secure. To achieve this, it submits to denigration and humiliation before the superpowers. Indeed, the Kuwaiti rulers may fly U.S. or Soviet flags on their ships, but can they also decorate their ports with foreign flags? If they can manage the first task, then, accordingly, they will also be able to manage the second.

Thirdly, the ruling quarters in the White House say they wish to see security for all in the Persian Gulf. However, they might have realized by now that if Islamic Iran does not enjoy security, then no one else will, not even the United States.

Fourthly, the Islamic Republic of Iran wishes to see the establishment of security in the entire Persian Gulf; it considers the region's security indivisible. Divisibility of security in the Persian Gulf waters is just like trying to part the water itself, which would result in flames and explosion. Those who have distanced themselves from the propaganda uproar and wish to understand realities admit that Iran is the Persian Gulf's superpower.

In light of what was outlined, it follows that the Russians are faced with a big test, which is: What stand are they going to take in connection with the events in the Persian Gulf? Are they capable of recognizing and identifying the perpetrator of tension in the Persian Gulf clearly, that is, the Saddam regime? Can Moscow dissuade the Iraqi regime from fueling the flames in the Persian Gulf and influence it? Here, it will become clear as to

whether the Soviet Union's colossal investment in Iraq has been fruitful or not; or whether Baghdad listens to Moscow or not.

After the defeat of the imposed and erroneous policy by the Kremlin in the Persian Gulf, which was its first defeat there and which damaged its ships, a logical and independent policy would bring about the first victory for Moscow. Otherwise, it will prove that the Russians have neither any real influence in Iraq nor any correct policy in the region.

IRGC Minister: No Mercy For U.S. Forces in Gulf

LD151823 Tehran IRNA in English 1804 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] Tehran, June 15, IRNA — Minister of Islamic Revolution Guards Corps (IRGC) Mohsen Rafiqdust said at the second day of a convention of auxiliary forces (rural workers) of construction jihad that Iran's Muslim forces 'would not have mercy on the U.S. Marines at the Persian Gulf, and that if the American fleets make any movement in preparation for any operations Iran's Revolutionary Guards would destroy them.'

The IRGC commander said the Persian Gulf cannot possibly be safe for some countries and unsafe for others.

Rafiqdust said the big powers are posing for a war with Iran at the Persian Gulf, but noted that their principal goal is to entangle Iran in an economic war as a prelude to making it succumb to problems at home. He said because of Iran's continuous victories in the battlefronts, the Iraq-Iran war has now become the superpowers' nightmare.

The IRGC commander said that the IRGC plans dispatch as many as one thousand battalions to the battlefronts this year in order to provide further momentum to successful operations by Iran's Muslim forces.

Reportage on Visit by Japanese Foreign Minister

Discusses Gulf With Khamene'i

LD151802 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1630 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i this evening received Mr Kuranari, the Japanese foreign minister. He has come to Tehran heading a high-ranking political delegation. Foreign Minister Velayati and the ambassadors of the two countries were present at this meeting.

The Japanese foreign minister began by expressing his pleasure over his trip to the Islamic Republic of Iran. He said that he hoped the relations between the two countries would be expanded as much as possible. He also conveyed his country's concern over lack of security for shipping in the Persian Gulf and increased tension in the region. He hoped that steps would be taken to reduce the tension and to restore security in the region. Regarding the Iran-Iraq war, he said that he was aware of Iran's stance on an honorable and just end to the war. He hoped that the conflict would end.

In a speech President Khamene'i then referred to the issue of security in the Persian Gulf and said: The issue of security in the Persian Gulf should be separated from the issue of war since involving the Persian Gulf in the war would be a step toward making it an international issue. The president said: Extending the limits of the war is as much of a crime as starting it, and Iraq has committed both crimes. Since the world tolerated the first crime and did not react properly, Iraq has committed the second crime by creating tension and extending the war. If the world tolerates Iraq's second crime as well, the world will have to suffer further crises and problems.

The president pointed out that no other ships would be damaged if Iraq ceased its attacks on shipping. He added: The presence of the superpowers in the Persian Gulf region will most certainly weaken security. Mr Khamene'i said: Can you find a region in the world where American presence has not led to tension? About the imposed war, the president added: Our condition for ending the war is a simple and rational one. We have said that the aggressor should be punished because of his crimes. This is accepted all over the world.

Commenting on the measures taken by the UN Security Council, the president said: When Iraq occupied thousands of kilometers of our territory, this institution advised us to accept the cease-fire. Is this not a hostile suggestion that indicates enmity? In your opinion, is this an honest proposal? If we had accepted the cease-fire, then would the Iraqis not be present in our towns, villages, and fields even now? So, how can we be optimistic toward the Security Council while we have had such bad experience with them in the past. The Iraqi regime is a warmongering and wicked regime that should be punished for its aggression.

Finally, the president referred to mutual issues and relations between the two countries. He welcomed the expansion of relations. He said: There are vast medium- and long-term possibilities, especially after the war, and the two countries can have a great deal of economic and technical cooperation. In this respect, if Japanese policies are suitable, we would prefer them to others.

Reports, Communique Detail Recent Fighting

Communique No 2,868

LD151646 Tehran IRNA in English 1534 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] Tehran, June 15, IRNA — Iranian Navy gunboats intercepted and searched 12 cargo ships and oil tankers in the Strait of Hormuz yesterday but allowed them to continue voyage after being satisfied that they were not carrying cargo for Iraq, said a military communique here Monday.

The 2868th Joint Staff Communique said that Muslim forces of Iran reconnoitered and shelled Iraqi positions in the northwestern and western fronts Sunday, killing or wounding at least 10 enemy soldiers and destroying two munitions dumps, four vehicles and several armoured personnel carriers of theirs. Vast parts of the enemy positions were also set ablaze.

An Iranian patrol convoy clashed with an Iraqi patrol unit in a western front yesterday, inflicting heavy casualties and losses on the enemy soldiers.

Iranian artillery fire halted reinforcement activities of Iraqi forces in Helaleh, southern fronts, and checked movement of an enemy tank unit in Mehran, western fronts, Sunday.

A number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and more than 10 enemy gun emplacements destroyed in the southern fronts Sunday when they were shelled by Iranian Gendarmerie forces, the communique concluded.

30 Iraqi 'Agents' Killed

LD151813 Tehran IRNA in English 1743 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] Ahvaz, Khuzestan Prov., June 15, IRNA — More than 30 Iraqi security agents were killed and wounded in a bloody clash with residents of Al-Thawra [as received] town last month, an Iraqi mojahedin spokesman said here today.

The spokesman said following chemical bombardments of northern Iraq's areas by Baghdad regime, people of the town staged a massive demonstration protesting the barbaric acts of the Ba'thist regime.

During the three-hour rally, the spokesman said, people of the town blocked all streets as a result of which Iraqi security agents, among them a group of Egyptian and Jordanian troops opened fire on the people, martyring and wounding scores of women and children.

Eyewitnesses who put the number of Iraqi casualties at 30 said that the clash was the heaviest one between people and government forces in the past seven years, the spokesman said.

Al-Thawra town is located near Baghdad with a population of 50,000 mainly Iraqi Kurdish refugees.

Foreign media in line with the Iraqi regime has so far kept mum on the insurrection of the people in this town.

Kurds Inflict Casualties

LD160944 Tehran IRNA in English 0925 GMT 16 Jun 87

[Text] Orumiyeh, W. Azarbayjan Prov., June 16, IRNA — Iraqi Kurdish peshmergas inflicted heavy casualties and damage on Iraqi Ba'thist forces in a recent clash in Zaveeteh [spelling as received] region, northern Iraq, capturing 18 of them.

According to a report the Iraqi forces comprising several battalions supported by artillery units and warplanes attacked two villages of Zaveeteh and tried to set afire one of the villages. However, they were forced to flee following a 7-hour clash with peshmergas.

A considerable number of Ba'thist soldiers were killed and the commander of the Iraqi light battalion, Evaz Efradi was among those injured.

22 Kalashnikovs, 150 cartridges, two R.P.G. 11, three revolvers, one set of military field glasses and other military equipment were seized intact by the peshmergas.

The Ba'thist enemy later retaliated to this defeat by raiding the villages of Kafriki [spelling as received] and Beanarinki [spelling as received] by heavy weapons and warplanes as a result of which several farms and livestock were damaged.

Khomeyni Receives Soldiers, Others in Jamaran

LD161059 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 16 Jun 87

[Text] A group of Guards corpsmen, defense personnel, Mobilization of the Oppressed, and Islamic Revolution Committee members stationed in Jamaran, accompanied by their families and by engineering unit personnel of the Islamic Revolution Committee as well as persons from teachers' training institutes in Sistan, Baluchestan, and Bakhtaran Provinces, were received by Imam Khomeyni at Jamaran this morning.

During the meeting, Serajoddin Musavi, commander in chief of Islamic Revolution Committees and head of the security of the imam's residence's, submitted a report on the sincere efforts of these brothers to the imam of the ummah and thanked the imam for his kindness toward this self-sacrificing group.

Finally, the imam of the ummah acknowledged the cheers of the audience.

Delhi on Modalities To Send Relief to Jaffna

BK151402 Delhi General Overseas Service in English 1330 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] India and Sri Lanka reached an agreement on modalities to provide relief supplies to the people of Jaffna Peninsula. The agreement has been set out in a joint communique issued in New Delhi and Colombo. The agreement was reached after final round of discussions in Colombo today between the Indian high commissioner, Mr Dixit, and the Sri Lankan foreign minister, Mr Hameed, lasting over an hour. Relief supplies will be sent by Indian vessels up to Kankesanthurai. The vessels will be unarmed and prior to loading the relief supplies will be inspected by representatives of the Indian Red Cross as well as representatives of the Sri Lankan Government. The Indian Government will convey in advance to the Sri Lankan Government routes the Indian vessels will take from ports in India to Kankesanthurai. The Sri Lankan Navy will escort these vessels when they reach the Sri Lankan waters. The Sri Lankan naval and port authorities will make necessary arrangements to receive the Indian vessels bringing relief supplies.

Joint Statement Published

BK151351 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 1344 GMT 15 Jun 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, June 15 *(Lanka Puwath)* — Sri Lanka's Minister of Foreign Affairs A K Shahul Hameed and India's high commissioner in Sri Lanka today agreed on the modalities for the supply and distribution of relief supplies from India.

The Governments of Sri Lanka and India made a joint statement on the despatch of relief supplies to the Jaffna Peninsula by the Government of India.

The relief supplies will be sent by unarmed Indian vessels to the Jaffna port of Kankesanthurai and will be inspected by the Sri Lankan Government prior to loading.

The following is the text of the joint statement:

"Taking into account discussions between the Governments of India and Sri Lanka from June 1, 1987 onwards:

"Motivated by the desire to provide relief supplies to Sri Lankan citizens on the Jaffna Peninsula and appreciating that Sri Lanka has accepted the offer:

"Desiring to sustain and further the good neighbourly relations between Governments of India and Sri Lanka and respecting Sri Lanka's sovereignty and territorial integrity:

"It was agreed today (15 June) between the Governments of Sri Lanka and India in Colombo that the following will be modalities for despatch of relief supplies from the Government and people of India to Sri Lankan citizens on the Jaffna Peninsula:

"(A) Relief supplies will be sent by Indian vessels up to Kankesanthurai. Indian vessels will be unarmed. Prior to loading, relief supplies will be inspected by representatives of Sri Lankan Government that it may choose to nominate:

"(B) The Government of India will convey in advance the route that Indian vessels will take from ports in India to Kankesanthurai. The Sri Lankan Navy will escort these vessels when they enter Sri Lankan territorial waters. The Sri Lankan naval and port authorities concerned will make necessary arrangements to receive these Indian vessels bringing in supplies.

"(C) Logistical arrangements for off-loading of supplies at Kankesanthurai Port, arrangement for their transportation and distribution of goods to areas on the Jaffna Peninsula (including the Vadamarachchi region, Tennamarachchi and Vallikamam West region and Jaffna city) will be undertaken by the Government of Sri Lanka through the government agent, [while] Jaffna and the following agencies will be associated with the distribution of relief supplies:

"(I) [Roman one] Six representatives of Sri Lankan Red Cross including representatives of the Jaffna chapter.

"(II) [Roman two] Six representatives of the Indian Red Cross.

"(III) [Roman Three] Representatives of the Jaffna Multipurpose Cooperative Societies.

"(IV) [Roman Four] Two representatives of the Government of India/Indian High Commission.

"Precise tonnage/description of relief supplies to be despatched by India will be decided mutually through normal diplomatic channels.

"It was agreed that the despatch of relief supplies will commence as soon as possible".

Indian Paper Says Some Jaffna Relief Intercepted

BK151245 Delhi THE HINDU in English 6 Jun 87 p 1

[Text] Madras, June 5. The relief parcels dropped by the Indian Air Force yesterday did not reach the affected Tamils in the Vadamarachchi region of the Jaffna peninsula, according to the LTTE [Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam] here. All the food packages dropped in the area at Vellaveli, Ldaikkadu and Nelliadi were confiscated by the Sri Lankan troops, it said.

An LTTE spokesman said soldiers seized the packages when they fell close to places like Vellaveli where they have established a minicamp. But the LTTE distributed relief procured from outside to people in sectors of Vadamarachchi under its control. He pointed out that people of Vadamarachchi were the affected lot. They had been starving for more than a week since the soldiers occupied the area.

Reprisal for relief: In Trincomalee, 20 Tamil civilians were burnt alive yesterday by soldiers in reprisal killings after the IAF [Indian Air Force] planes dropped relief packets, the LTTE said.

The incident took place at the 13th Mile Post in the Thambalagamam area. The soldiers marched in and rounded up 20 Tamils including women and children. They tied them up, poured kerosene over them and set them afire. Before doing this, the soldiers reportedly told them that they should seek India's assistance to save their lives, the LTTE said.

Government Denies Allegation of Tamil Exodus

BK151124 Colombo International Service in English 1045 GMT 15 Jun 87

[Text] Political observers say that India is building up a Tamil refugee syndrome, pointing to an alleged exodus of Sri Lankans from Jaffna. Official sources in Colombo, discounting reports in Indian media, point out that there is no physical possibility for thousands of Tamils to flee from the north or east. Sri Lankan Navy boats patrolling the sea around Jaffna have also not reported movement of craft carrying refugees as alleged by Indian media. During the past 1 week the main story in most Madras media was the alleged exodus of thousands of Tamils from Jaffna. The reason attributed to this exodus is persecution and starvation. Foreign journalists and diplomats taken to Jaffna by the government have already said that there is no truth in reports of starvation in Jaffna used by Indian authorities to justify the uninvited air drop of so-called relief supplies.

Meanwhile, the security forces are continuing the "Operation Goodwill" to win over the Tamil population in areas controlled by them. Civil administration is being strengthened in areas like Vadamarachchi recently liberated from terrorists, and the people are being provided all their requirements. As part of the strategy to win over the people, the security forces moved out of Atchuveli area, (?eliminating) the need to creating an Army camp and setting up security perimeter.

Government Aids Victims of 'Terrorist' Attack

BK160902 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0805 GMT 16 Jun 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, June 16 *(Lanka Puwath)* — The Sri Lankan Ministry of Rehabilitation has provided all necessary relief measures to the sixty families affected by the recent Tamil terrorist attack on the Godapottenwela village, Medirigiriya, Polonnaruwa District, north central Sri Lanka, senior assistant secretary to the ministry, Tilak Chandrasekere told *Lanka Puwath* today.

Tamil terrorists belonging to the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) hacked to death nine persons including children, wounded six and destroyed eight houses last Friday [12 June] at Godapottewela, Medirigiriya.

Sixty families were affected by this brutal terrorist attack.

The ministry provides dry rations and other essential items to these families and all funeral expenses and medical expenses for the wounded were borne by the ministry and the funerals took place last Sunday.

As security in the area has been strengthened, Channrasekere said that these families have agreed to stay back in the village.

Rehabilitation officials visited the scene of the crime immediately after the tragedy to assess the damage caused by the terrorists.

LTTE Leader Captured, 2 Policemen Killed

BK160858 Colombo LANKA PUWATH in English 0820 GMT 16 Jun 87

["OANA/pool" item]

[Text] Colombo, June 16 *(Lanka Puwath)* — A leader of the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) gang of terrorists, Palani Rasaratnam was captured by the police yesterday while two policemen were killed when they accidentally activated a concealed explosive device.

The Media Centre in Colombo told *Lanka Puwath* that at Kinnadi, near Kiran, Batticaloa District, yesterday two policemen were killed when a Special Task Force (STF) patrol accidentally activated a concealed explosive device.

The killed were Constables Navaratne and Vijithasiri.

Three others wounded were hospitalised at Anuradhapura.

At Pallachchenai, near Karadiyanaru yesterday, terrorists exploded a landmine whilst an STF patrol was passing by a busy street.

One civilian was killed and another A M Pakeer was wounded.

There were no casualties among the STF patrol.

At Mahindapura (near Serunuwara), Trincomalee District a LTTE terrorist leader, Palani Rasaratnam was captured by the police.

He had with him an FNC rifle, three grenades and a (?carbine) full of ammunition.